

Greetings,

I am writing to request that you please vote no on HB-3063. The impact that a sweeping bill such as this will have on Oregon residents cannot be underestimated.

If this bill passes I will be forced to remove my immunocompromised son from school. He is in first grade and goes to a small private school, and he absolutely loves it. He had a rough start and we were never sure that he would be able to excel the way that he has.

The kind of immunosuppression that my son has will not gain him a medical exemption from OHA, even though the vaccine inserts themselves list his condition as a contraindication. There is a disconnect and a wide gap here that many of us will fall right through. I work hard to be able to afford my sons tuition, I am not even middle class and well below the poverty line. I put him in his private school to mitigate his risk of being in a bigger school and I feel that this bill is majorly flawed, as if it passes he will be punished, not protected.

Oregon has excellent vaccination uptake rates, we have surpassed the percentage necessary for herd immunity. I know that many of sent you the data on this. We do not have an emergency with the few cases of measles, and we should not make a fear based decision that effects kids in Oregon so drastically out of haste. Please, please think this through. There are better ways to protect our kids, and I know that many have offered ideas on this front to you as well.

Kids who have active infections are protected and allowed to attend school, and that feels unfair to my medically fragile child. When my son is at his most fragile I can't send him to school at all, vaccine preventable diseases aren't the only things that parents like me have to worry about. Trust me, I am much more concerned about the risk of exposure to strep throat or even a regular cold virus.

I did allow my son to be vaccinated and I stopped at the advice of his doctors. He just couldn't handle them and there was serious concern about the adverse events he experienced. There was no question in his doctors minds, my son is a child who should not continue the schedule. Vaccines are not a one size fits all product, nothing is. If this passes, his doctors will have zero say and OHA will not exempt him based on their VERY narrow list of contraindicated conditions.

Please think of my son and how devastated he will be if you pass this and I have to tell him he can't go to school anymore. He is only 7, how on earth do I even begin this to him? Think of all of these kids in similar situations who will be effected. Think of the single parents who have vaccine injured children, who can't quit their jobs to homeschool. You are going to force them to put their children through a very real danger. You are going to force our doctors to go against their professional opinion and potentially hurt our kids. Most kids are fine, yes. But some just aren't and science is evolving to finally show us that definitively.

This is a hot button issue, I can't imagine the pressure you feel and how precarious this all is. Please look at the data that shows that Oregon has satisfactory vaccination rates and know that we have one of the highest in the nation per the CDC. We live in a first world country where even if a handful of kids get the measles they can be very well taken care of in the hands of Oregon's brilliant doctors. No one has died from measles in this country for a decade, and that wasn't even a child.

Again, please think of my son and the other children in similar situations and vote no on HB-3063. Oregon is a great state and we take care of our children very well. This bill only serves to exclude a tiny minority who have legitimate reasons not to follow the entire schedule supported by our doctors. We love our kids more than anything and want them to have their health and an education with their peers, as social connections are incredibly important. If you pass this it will only serve to isolate a group of kids who are no threat to anyone.

Thank you for your time,

Jena Blair

541-531-6147

Blair.jena@gmail.com

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