

To Whom it may Concern,

This bill is not the way to keep immunocompromised individuals safe, illness is everywhere, there will always be the common cold, intestinal bugs, croup, RSV, food poisoning, etc. Any illness poses a risk for a person with a weakened immune system I know this as I am considered someone who is immunocompromised. Currently my children's school has some kids out with the stomach bug, again this year. This is concerning for myself and my daughter who got ill already. She has a oral surgery scheduled for Friday and I will probably keep her home to insure her health. She is my responsibility and I am not expecting other parents to care for my child.

This bill will hurt thousands more in so many ways than the proposal that it will help the immunocompromised. Oregon is highly vaccinated and unvaccinated children or partially vaccinated children pose no risk to others. They cannot pass an illness they do not have. The measles cases have stemmed from foreigners coming into the community. The AAPS has a letter dated February 26th, 2019 stating "The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) strongly opposes federal interference in medical decisions, including mandated vaccines". They go on to say "Vaccines are necessarily risky, as recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court and by Congress". Whether on a federal or state level, this needs to be recognized. [AAPS Letter](#)

This letter is to inform you of exactly how the passing of HB 3063 will dramatically impact my family, our children and our future here in Salem.

I am a lifelong Salem resident and my husband and I have built our life and family here. My husband owns a business here in Salem. Two of our three kids have been attending a Private Catholic School and in about 10 days I am due with our fourth baby. Our plan was to send our almost four year old to pre-school this fall at the same school his older siblings attend; he is so excited to join them!

My children have held religious exemptions since they started school; for my oldest that would be 6 years (pre-k 3 through currently 3rd grade) and my daughter 3 years (pre-k 3-currently kinder). My children LOVE their school, their teachers, their Catholic education and their sweet friendships they have developed. We pay for their private education, tithe to our church and of course still pay for public education through taxes. We volunteer and help our community. We are proud to be Oregonians and live in Salem. I have never once considered ever leaving Oregon; my husband and I have lived here are whole lives and our families are all rooted here. But this could all change if this bill passes. My religious rights WILL be taken away. I continue to hear that those rights will not be as we can homeschool. Let's be REAL HONEST here; our religious rights are on the verge of being stripped away. It doesn't matter how someone wants to sugar coat it, they are being taken away by the passing of HB 3063.

Since my children have religious exemptions and none of them will qualify for medical exemptions even with changes (even though my oldest suffered from vaccine reactions and developed an autoimmune and through genetic testing my daughter is even at a HIGHER risk than my son) they will not be allowed now to attend their school. All of a sudden they will not be able to attend their school! This is utterly heartbreaking that a parent has to choose between their children's education or their health. My 3 year old would never have the opportunity to attend school and my sweet daughter that will be here in over a week will not have the RIGHT to attend school either. Rights that I would have never thought would be taken away in the United States let alone in the 21st century. My husband and I have talked about if we should mention what is taking place right now in legislation and the possibility they will no longer be able to go to school. Though I am not prepared as I cannot even get a grasp on this yet. I do not want to cause them anxiety and worry.

My husband and I have talked about if we would homeschool or move out of the state. I have never considered the idea of homeschooling. We chose a Catholic Private School because that is what we wanted for our children. We wanted that faith based community education for our children. With homeschooling we could still teach our faith- yes but they would miss out on all of the community that their school brings. This is a huge crucial part of our faith. Being part of a community, serving and leading. Those vital relationships that are developed and grown throughout childhood within a community.

Through testimonies and conversations the talk about how vital community and relationships are to children. Oregon has one of the highest suicide rates. A huge problem with suicide is the individual feeling utterly alone, secluded from others, an outcast. This is something I am very well aware of as my older sister committed suicide when I was 16. It altered our lives forever, it made the line drawn of before her suicide and after. If this bill passes it is putting thousands and thousands of children at risk. Banning children from their school, sports, choir, after school clubs, jobs, volunteering and activities. Some of the most critical places for our youth to connect and be heard and seen. Passing this bill will gravely hurt our youth in more ways than one.

As I mentioned above I have never considered moving out of Oregon, I don't want to live anywhere else but this bill is set to take away so much, our religious rights, our rights to our children's Catholic education that staying in Oregon is now not what it used to be. My husband who has worked to grow his business here in Salem for the past 18 years is more prepared to move than I am. He is willing to uproot everything to find a safe place to live where our children will have the right to attend school while preserving our strong Catholic beliefs and be apart of the community while not jeopardizing their health.

I ask that you consider my family as well as all the other families who will be impacted beyond measure by the passing of HB3063. I urge you to please put all families first in Oregon. YOU are in the position to decide what happens to MY family, I no longer have that position.

Thank you,

Alisha Hauge