

Dear Chair Salinas and members of the committee,

I am in opposition to HB 3063 and I urge you to vote no on it.

If you are considering amendments, there are critical items that must be discussed and included:

1. A religious exemption must be preserved. Contrary to what was stated at the hearing, I do not believe the Supreme Court has ruled them unconstitutional, in the absence of a philosophical exemption. Currently, 29 states, plus DC, have religious exemptions on the books, but no philosophical. These are: AK, HI, MT, NV, NM, WY, SD, NE, KS, MO, IA, IL, IN, KY, TN, AL, GA, FL, SC, NC, VA, NY, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT, NJ, DE, And DC. I want proof that these have been ruled unconstitutional.

Religious freedom is at the core of this country's founding, and protected by the US and OR constitutions. It is a violation of the right of free exercise to mandate an individual receive a product that violates their conscience.

2. Therefore, there needs to be an exception for private and parochial schools. Parents choose these schools and pay large tuitions, so their children can get the education that they want. The state should not insert themselves in these institutions by dictating admission requirements. Denying access to religious schools is curtailing religious freedom.

3. The emergency clause needs to be removed. There is no emergency that justifies immediately removing tens of thousands of children mid year.

4. Current students with exemptions on file need to be grandfathered in.

5. The medical exemption process needs to be radically altered. The state needs OUT of the process. The decision needs to be between the patient and their doctor. Doctors need to know that they will not suffer negative repercussions for exercising their best judgment on what is or is not safe for their patient. Any doctor licensed as a PCP in Oregon needs to be able to sign.

Thank you.
Darcy Rapoza
Salem