

Hello,

I am writing to tell you why I oppose HB 3063, the bill to end all non-medical vaccine exemptions for Oregon schoolchildren. I believe where there is risk there must be education and options, and I believe all children should have access to an education regardless of vaccination status.

The governor of Colorado recently was quoted as saying “When the government tries to force parents to do this, it creates distrust in both vaccinations and distrust in government.”

Only 2.7% of Oregon schoolchildren currently hold a philosophical or religious exemption, meaning that scientifically we already have high community immunity to disease. Therefore, there’s no reason to take away parental rights to those using non medical exemptions.

There are many reasons a parent might choose to use exemptions. Here is a little story behind why my family has chosen not to vaccinate.

My own personal story is that my parents chose not to vaccinate me as a child, but before a trip to Mexico when I was 18 they decided to catch me up on a bunch of vaccines. After these vaccines I became very ill, chronic stomach pains and migraines to the point I was hospitalized many times. Later I was diagnosed with Colitis, Celiac, Psoriasis and a handful of other autoimmune diseases. Even my skin now shows visible damage to all that I have been vaccine injured.

When my husband and I started having kids we did a ton of research. Initially we had decided to do a few of the vaccines needed when the kids were newborn. Our son broke out into hives, had a fever of 103 at only a few months old and within 24 hours of getting vaccines. Later at the age of 13 he became very ill with chronic pancreatitis and was hospitalized at Dorenbecker for months. During that time I learned that having pancreatitis makes certain vaccines very dangerous for him. However, every doctor that has told me this when I ask to sign a medical exemption have refused. Some stating that insurance companies will drop them if they sign medical exemptions. Others stating their employer won’t allow it and some just stating that they would never sign one because Oregon gives other options without putting their head on the line.

This past year our son was excluded from school for 21 days during the pertussis “outbreak” in Lane county. He was completely healthy besides being home and depressed for 21 days. He was denied education for 21 days, he has an IEP and the majority of his classes are hands on so he literally lost 21 days of education that will never be made up to him. Later it was released that 78% of kids who came down with pertussis were fully vaccinated.

Our family is one of many who have a history of family vaccine injuries who can't get a medical exemption in Oregon. My family has lived here for 5 generations and one of the reasons we have loved Oregon is because of our freedom to chose.

Medical freedom goes beyond vaccinations. Have you voted to allow abortion? Death with dignity? These are all medical freedoms and we all should be allowed equally to have the freedom to chose when there is risk.

Thank you for listening to our story, I hope you chose to vote for medical freedom.

Karin Mitchell

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