

Dear Representative Salinas,

This is my testimony and reasoning for why HB3063 could be detrimental to my family. We follow a selective and delayed vaccine schedule because my son was diagnosed with a life-threatening autoimmune disease at 2. Even his specialist won't give him a medical exemption, so we have to use the philosophical one. I delay his brothers vaccines as well since autoimmune diseases are genetic and research has shown that too many vaccines, too soon, can trigger an autoimmune disease. It terrifies me to think that a cookie cutter vaccine plan could be forced on all children no matter the circumstances. Nothing else in the medical world is one-size fits all, so why should this be different? We ALL want what is best for our kids, and I urge you not to make a blanket decision for everyone. Especially one that is tied to the education of our children and whether they could receive it based on this. Homeschooling is not an option for most families.

This is just one story of the 31,000 kids in Oregon who claim a non-medical exemption. Every family is making decisions based on what they feel is best for the health of their child. I am NOT anti-vaccine. I am PRO safe vaccination. Withholding education unless a child has had EVERY single vaccination on-time is coercion. There is no reason to keep children out of school. Vaccination rates are at 96% state-wide which is over the 95% needed for herd-immunity. There is no crisis, and no need to push for this bill at this time.

I implore you to consider the specific circumstances of each child who has a non-medical exemption. Everyone has a story and a reason.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kalen Konopka
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