

March 11, 2019

TO: House Health Care Committee

Re: OPPOSE HB 3063

I am writing regarding the House Bill 3063 to inform you that as a United States Citizen and Bend Resident, I am opposed to mandatory vaccines in Oregon.

I am a vaccine injured person. I received the HPV Vaccine in 2008, at the age of 25 years old, because, as a newly college graduate, that is what my Dr. suggested. Shortly after the series, I developed a life-threatening anaphylaxis allergy. Several ER visits and months of testing recovered an auto immune allergy to wheat grain and rye. Two things I had consumed for my entire life with no problems up until that point. My life has never been the same.

In 2013 my vaccinated son, began having high fevers nearing 105° F, causing febrile seizures. In 2014, at 18 months old, he had one in a car seat on Highway 20, coincidentally visiting his grandparents in Oregon (we lived out of state at that time). Have you ever seen a child having a seizure? Let alone in a car seat? I thought he was dead.

In 2015, my second son was born with a disorganized nervous system. He is currently thriving after years of therapies (occupational, physical, speech, feeding). We elected to delay his vaccinations due to familial history and his condition. We decided to give him a single dose of HIB in 2016 – his leg swelled bigger than I could have imagined, became feverish and painful. Of course, we were told this was typical side effect.

To be clear, I am NOT an "anti-vaxxer", I appreciate and understand the advances made in modern medicine to eliminate harmful infectious disease in our community. However, it is NOT a one size fits all approach for the safety of our individual DNA. Vaccine Injuries are real and they affect real families like mine. When there is RISK there must be CHOICE.

As a college graduate, a business person, a wife of a medical professional, an educated mother, and a tax-paying citizen, I have the right to make informed medical decisions for my children (and myself). We rely on non-medical exemptions that allow my children to attend schools and access to services that WE PAY FOR.

If this health bill passes, we will have no choice but to move out of the state of Oregon, a place that we love dearly, a place the believes and fights for inclusivity, education, and human rights.

Coincidentally, I am serving a 2-week jury service this week and next in Deschutes County. As I sat in Juror Orientation today, listening to the Coordinator and the video speak about our system and how each citizen is an important part of democracy, and that it relies on a broad range of public opinion to function properly. I couldn't help but feel let down by your process and roots of this bill. It's going against everything that video and our federal, state and local government promotes as written in the constitution.

I urge you to please vote NO tomorrow on HB 3063.

Thank you,
Bethany Penhall
Bend, OR

Supporting FACTS:

We are not in an emergency.

Only 2.6% of students in K-12 are 100% UNVACCINATED so that means of the people who filed an exemption, 66% of them partially vaccinated their children! (*Because only 2.6% of the 7.5% of exemptions did no vaccines, that means 4.9% did vaccinate, $4.9/7.5=65\%$*). In addition Oregon has extremely high MMR rates across all counties.

Excluding children from the right to education is unconstitutional and unethical and by mandating vaccination for ALL students in Oregon for school attendance will impact 31,521 students that have filed a non-medical exemption, meaning the student didn't receive ALL 31 of 31 required vaccines for school attendance. 7.5% of kindergarteners file an exemption form, meaning they could simply be exempt from **ONE** vaccine and not ALL vaccines.

Exemption rates go up naturally over time as a new vaccine is added to the schedule, parents are opting out until they are ready.

I am in favor of safe vaccines that target real threats that are tested prospectively using placebo (saline injections) and look for long term (at least 10 - 20 years) health outcomes. When assessing the benefits of vaccines, we must weigh them against the side effects and long-term consequences.