

March 9, 2019

The Honorable Representative Andrea Salinas and Members of the House Committee on Healthcare:

I support HB 3063.

It is reported that “hundreds of people swarmed the Capitol” on March 7th to protest HB 3063, which would exclude unvaccinated children from attending public schools.

I do not believe these “hundreds” represent the opinion of the Oregon general population. I believe most of us share Representative Cheri Helt’s position that responsible citizens do not have the right to risk the safety of others, particularly children, due to misinformation and fear.

The point being missed by the anti-vaccinationists (or intentionally ignored) is that they are free to choose to not have their children vaccinated – they just do not have the right in a public school setting to expose vulnerable children who for medical reasons cannot be vaccinated.

One has only to read the report published in the Oregonian on March 8, 2019 of the 8-week ordeal suffered by a 6-year old boy who nearly died of tetanus – and the staggering cost of \$1 million dollars for his care – to try to understand why a parent would risk the agony this child endured. (The Oregonian story noted the parents chose not to give him a second dose of the tetanus vaccine or any other recommended immunizations.) And we also know that taxpayers will ultimately be paying these costs, in one way or another (i.e. yet even higher insurance premiums).

Please vote “do pass” on HB 3063 and send it out of committee.

Joan Smith
Salem, Oregon