

My name is [REDACTED] I am mother to two kids, one in second grade and the other in seventh. I received my undergraduate and graduate education at Stanford University and have been employed at Intel for the last 11 years.

I am not opposed to vaccinations. I am, however, extremely opposed to a broad and hastily written vaccination mandate that would dictate a one size fits all requirement in order to attend school. It is a massive overreach of our government into medical decisions that should belong to individual families and their medical providers. The medical exemption process that currently exist is not sufficient to address many less understood factors and vaccine reactions. Philosophical and religious waivers are a critical piece of medical freedom akin to freedom of choice. Vaccines are acknowledged to carry a small but unavoidable element of risk and the responsibility for how to navigate this extremely personal medical decision lies with the family and their trusted medical providers. The government should not insert itself into this.

Additionally, this is a poorly written law which fails to account for a variety of situations that should receive different considerations. First of all, it impacts students who already school at home through virtual online schools. Second of all it impacts students who attend private schools, many of whom have small class sizes or relatively higher undervaccinated populations which will be more heavily impacted by the removal of children from their classes. On the medical side, the bill fails to account for medical proof of immunity through titers, in cases where children have gained immunity either through fewer than the recommended number of doses, or by having had the illness already.

This law also fails to attempt to quantify the fiscal impact of these new requirements, as well as the educational impact of our already struggling school systems. Some private schools will fall to unsustainably low enrollment if this bill should come to pass. Teachers will be put out of jobs. Many private school families have already paid tuition at this point that will not be refunded. Dual income families might find themselves without childcare because even if they are willing to comply with the vaccination requirements, it is not something that is safe to do all at once. It requires time to catch up and the bill fails to address this entirely. For all of these families, should they not wish to or be able to pursue homeschooling, their only option will be to move out of state. The private schools will suffer, the public schools will suffer, and most importantly, many children will be denied the right to an education.

Lastly, it is flat out wrong to characterize this legislation as an emergency. There have been single digit number of cases of measles in Oregon recently which has resulted in a disproportionate amount of panic compared to the actual risk this presents. This law, as a direct result of the measles situation, extends its reach way beyond the scope of measles. It does not distinguish between a disease like measles and a disease like Hepatitis B which is transmitted sexually or by needle sharing and is not a significant risk for most grade-schoolers, yet is part of the mandate.

I will be following HB3063 closely as both of my kids, and over 30,000 others, would be impacted and removed from their schools. This is despite the fact that both of my kids are fully vaccinated against measles having received the required two doses of the MMR vaccine. This is despite the fact that my 7th grader attends a virtual school and is home educated. This is despite the fact that my 2nd grader's private school class would drop to approximately 7 kids and possibly put a teacher out of a job due to the small class size. The proposed law is not the right answer. Our rights to medical freedom and autonomy should not be pitted against our children's rights to an education.

This law reflects poorly on our state government and should not make it further through our legislative process in its current form. Vote NO on HB3063.

Sincerely,

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