

Thank you to the House Healthcare Committee for carefully and thoroughly reviewing testimony on both sides of this issue. I am testifying in opposition of HB 3063 for several reasons.

-Children like mine who have had serious allergic reactions to vaccines cannot obtain a medical exemption in Oregon. We have been told that's what the philosophical exemption is for. This bill would be barring children with legitimate medical reasons to not receive vaccines from school. The only way this bill would protect children who cannot be vaccinated for legitimate medical reasons is if it has an amendment to allow doctors to sign off on medical exemptions without OHA interference.

-Children who are vaccinated according to the CDC catch up schedule would also be excluded from school. It varies for each vaccine, but for example, if a child starts the DTaP series after age 4 and finishes after age 6 the CDC says they only need 4 doses. Oregon schools require 5 doses for Kindergarten and 6 doses for 7th grade and up regardless of the timing. A student who has what they need according to the CDC would still be excluded from school even though they are considered fully immunized.

-If a family wanted to catch up their children there are minimum time periods between doses so it would take several months. That means with the bill going into effect immediately catching up would not be an option. Also, the catch up schedule above would be an issue. Catching up for Oregon school requirements would take even longer than the CDC recommended catch up schedule because again, Oregon school requirements are different than the CDC catch up schedule.

-Families with older students entered the school system with the legal right to make this decision for medical, religious, or philosophical reasons. Changing the rules part way through a child's education is unfair. And dishonest. My oldest daughter is nearly finished with an intense IB program at a high school we chose because of this program. If we lived in any other state she would be able to obtain the medical exemption she needs to finish, but I will not subject her to an injection she's allergic to because of a change of law I could not have predicted years ago.

-This bill will NOT protect the immune compromised. Sick people, vaccinated or not, are a threat to the immune compromised. Even just a cold. All of those sick kids will still be in school (I worked at a school, there are sick kids everywhere and not with vaccine preventable diseases).

-This bill will NOT prevent outbreaks. California's similar bill passed 4 years ago. They are currently in the midst of a measles outbreak. Nearly all of the cases in Washington occurred in a tight knit religious community. The strain of measles is a strain that the US vaccine is not as effective against.
https://jcm.asm.org/content/55/3/735?fbclid=IwAR1pkqh4JdMKCODXNA1OwAPV2Z_phiqEawtwhHYJGARo7OLQBG3wlHUPs88

-Vaccination rates in Oregon are very stable. According to OHA data, MMR vaccination rates have been steady for nearly 20 years, and before that they were LOWER not higher. Through the 80s, when I was growing up the vaccination rate was never over 80%. Only 2.6% of students in Oregon are unvaccinated. The other 4.9% who are "exempt" could be missing only one vaccine and even have everything they need, as outlined above.

Thank you,

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