

February 26, 2019

TO: Oregon State Legislature, Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: OPPOSE for HB 3063

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

As the wife of a medical professional, a parent of school aged children who practices informed consent, and a vaccine injured person living with autoimmune disease, I am not comfortable with the current protocol or lack of liability the vaccine industry holds. My children, who share my DNA have had adverse reactions (febrile seizures) to vaccines – but the medical community explains them as “typical side effects”. They were scary, problematic and not normal, yet, it’s nearly impossible to get a medical exemption in Oregon, even for a child with a history of nervous system issues.

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.

To be clear, I am NOT an anti-vaxxer, it is NOT a one size fits all approach for the safety of our individual DNA.

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. Lastly, it is my right as a parent to practice informed consent for any decisions involving my children.

Thank you,

Bethany Penhall

Bend, OR