

Representative Andrea Salinas, Chair  
Representative Cedric Hayden, Vice Chair  
House Health Care Committee

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Testimony in opposition of HB 3063 Mandatory Vaccination Bill

Chairperson Andrea Salinas, Vice Chairperson Cedric Hayden and members of the Committee,

My name is Kathleen Ulrich and I am a resident of Portland, OR. I am writing this testimony in opposition of HB 3063 because I am the parent of a vaccine injured child. When my daughter was 9 months old she received the Pevnar vaccine at a well baby check and woke up in the middle of the night (same day) with severe facial swelling. We consider ourselves very lucky that this was not an anaphylactic attack since it came on while she was sleeping.



Over the course of the next 5 months she had 18 additional “reactions” that involved either facial swelling, severe hives or unexplained bruising. Over those 5 months we saw an allergist, hematologist, dermatologist and of course her pediatrician on many occasions. We visited the emergency room twice, I physically restrained her for blood draws on 5 separate occasions, we received Epi-pens, we tried a number of different medications (all of which resulted in additional symptoms) and we eliminated foods from her diet. About mid-way through this ordeal her pediatrician asked us to please not give her any additional vaccines. I heard similar sentiments from other healthcare professionals, when we told them that we currently weren’t giving her any vaccines most replied with “Oh good, she shouldn’t get anything while this is going on”.



Most people would assume that my daughter would be eligible for a medical exemption given the severity of her reaction and the medical advice that we have received. We have inquired about getting one, but our pediatrician does not give medical exemptions while personal exemptions are available and from what I've seen she may not qualify for one based on the current policy. So we rely on our ability to choose not to give her any vaccines by using a personal belief exemption. We rely on our ability to work with her pediatrician to weigh the risks associated with vaccines. And for her, the risk of systemic inflammation and autoimmune disease outweigh any benefit that the vaccine might provide. To deny our right to informed consent and her right to an education is wrong.



Thankfully she has not had a reaction in just over 6 months but I still check her face for swelling every single day, I feel her head for the tell tale inflammation that let me know that she was going to have a reaction, and I feel my heart skip a beat every time she has a bruise or a red mark on her skin. We went through five months of terror and the unknown, that's a quarter of her life so far. If this had happened after she received a dose on any other type of medication it would be in her chart not to give it to her again for her own safety. Why is a vaccine any different? Please help me to continue to protect her by utilizing my right as her mother to refuse a medical treatment that might harm her.



*Healthy Arden, 6 months after receiving the vaccine*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Ulrich

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