

Dear Members of the Committee, Representatives of the People of Oregon, Public Servants:

Please receive my written testimony for HB Bill 3063:

I oppose HB 3063. I believe parents should retain their rights to refuse vaccinations without being coerced, and I believe all children should have access to an education regardless of vaccination status.

The current frenzy over measles cases in WA and OR is blown out of proportion. There have been 11 measles deaths since 1999 in the USA. Communicable diseases, whereas understandably stressful for parents and caretakers, are not significant causes of death or serious injury for children in the USA.

For comparison: 26,000 children have died from gun violence since 1999 in the USA and 40,000 children have died in car accidents since 1999 in the USA. The USA has the second highest rate of Autism in the world, next to Canada, at 1 in every 59 children. 3 million children have asthma in the USA. 1780 children will die of cancer in the USA this year. 1309 children under 12 have died from suicide since 1999. These are the health issues of today in Oregon and in the USA. Not contracting measles, mumps, polio, diphtheria, scarlet fever, or the chicken pox.

The World Health Organization estimates that in 2016 89,780 children (mostly under age 5) died worldwide from measles from 7 million measles infections. This is a significant number. Yet correlating the danger of death and serious injury due to measles worldwide to our situation in Oregon is not logical. It is well known that malnourishment and in particular lack of vitamin A will predispose a child to serious complications and death when exposed to measles. Currently there are 151 million children worldwide who are considered malnourished. This is the root cause of the high number of deaths we see from measles. Not the infection of measles itself. Unless children who contract measles in the USA are malnourished and lacking in vitamin A there is very little chance of serious injury or death.

On the otherhand, the chance that vaccines may be harmful to children is a real cause for concern. There have been over 20,000 officially reported cases of vaccine caused serious injury and deaths since the 1980s. Big Pharma, ie the pharmaceutical companies who manufacture vaccines have 100% immunity from all responsibility from any negative impact of their products, recently strengthened in a 2011 Supreme Court ruling. How can parents entrust their children's health and long term wellbeing and survival to pharmaceutical products manufactured by companies motivated by profit and greed over ethics? To balance the scales it is perfectly understandable that parents should retain their medical rights and responsibilities to their own children, including having the option to opt out of recommended vaccinations or to choose an alternate schedule of receiving vaccinations.

I hope you will not support this bill along with me.

Sincerely,

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