

2/27/2019

Thank you Chair Salinas and members of the Health Care Committee for taking the time to listen to my testimony. My name is Heather Kent, I live in Newberg, Oregon and I oppose HB 3063.

You can be better than California. California ignored the voices of thousands of parents who pleaded to keep their religious and philosophical vaccine exemptions. Oregon is better than that. You can do better than that.

This bill is unnecessary. Less than 2.5% of Oregon school children are fully unvaccinated. The majority of these parents who have chosen not to vaccinate their children have made this decision because they have witnessed their child, family member or friend have an adverse reaction or die following a vaccine. These parents who have witnessed their children suffer or die after a vaccine will never choose to continue vaccinating. My family moved out of California shortly after non medical exemptions were eliminated, and I know many other families that did as well. Parents that strongly believe that the risk of vaccines outweigh the benefits will move to another state before they vaccinate.

Adverse reactions are not rare. 30,000 cases are reported to VAERS every year, and it is unfortunately a fact that less than 1% of cases are even reported to VAERS. That's not a one in a million chance of an adverse reaction, it's about one in a hundred. Where there is a risk there must be a choice. Don't take this choice away from parents.

Those of us who are religious cannot justify the fact that there are aborted fetal cells in many of the vaccines.

I understand the heart of this bill, and the reasons vaccines have been considered so important throughout the years, but the subject of vaccine safety is so complex. The fact is that vaccines do cause harm to some children, and again - where there is a risk there must be a choice. Be better than California. Please show us you care about parental choice and body autonomy. I KNOW you will be on the right side of history if you vote NO on HB 3063.

Thank you again for listening.
Heather Kent