

February 27, 2019

Dear Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

I strongly oppose HB 3063 and urge you to also oppose this bill that would trample parents' rights to make informed medical choices for their children. This hastily proposed bill would negatively impact the well-being of children and parents in Oregon.

Decisions regarding medical interventions are personal choices, and I urge you to act to preserve vaccine choice in Oregon. We must allow parents to work with their physicians to make healthcare decisions based on the family's individualized medical needs. A "one size fits all" approach with regard to medical procedures (vaccinations) that carry known risks would impinge on the freedoms we value as Americans. It is immoral to trample on the right of Oregonians to have autonomy over their bodies and their health.

The federal government has stated that vaccines are unavoidably unsafe, acknowledging the risk that some recipients will have strong adverse reactions. To mandate that all children be subjected to one immutable schedule of vaccinations, and then coercively tie that compliance to access to public education, is simply wrong. This should not cross over into my children's rights to access their public school education, which I pay for with my taxes.

Decisions regarding the vaccination schedule need to be informed choices that every parent has the right to make together with their physicians. The state should not insert itself into this very personal and private conversation by removing the important personal belief exemption for Oregonians.

Finally, this proposed bill purports to solve a problem that does not presently exist. Overall vaccination rates in Oregon remain high. There is no public health crisis and there is no need to remove the personal belief exemption.

I urge you to act in opposition to HB 3063 and to preserve the rights of Oregon families to make informed medical choices.

I am a constituent in Hood River County, 97031, and can be reached at 541-207-5140.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Cox