

Dear Member(s) of the Legislature,

Please oppose HB 3063. This bill is an infringement on our right to bodily autonomy and informed consent. The US Supreme Court has ruled vaccines as “unavoidably unsafe” and where there is risk, there must be choice. As a state that prides itself on providing its citizens with their rights to choose any number of things in their lives, this bill is a direct and blatant infringement on our basic human rights and should be opposed at any cost. If you care to read further, I have provided additional comments below. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Alexzandra Sale

I am a wife and mother residing in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and wish to have my voice heard and my points considered in regards to House Bill 3063. First of all, I want to express my disdain for the timing of this bill. A good portion of our state is covered in snow, making travel difficult if not downright dangerous or impossible, thus travel to the public hearing is limited. How convenient that the conservative half of the state is physically unable to attend this hearing. But I digress.

I am in opposition to this bill. My opposition has nothing to do with being pro- or anti-vaccine. This bill directly violates our basic human right to bodily autonomy and informed consent. Any medical procedure or intervention, including vaccines, cannot be considered 100% safe. All medical procedures and interventions, no matter how minor, safe, or low-risk they may be, carry some risk and must be provided only after the patient has given informed consent.

The passing of this bill would greatly hinder the rights of Oregonian parents. As a state that prides itself on providing its citizens with the right to choose who to marry, what to do with their bodies, and what to do with every other aspect of their lives, the hypocrisy of this bill is astounding. We, as parents, can choose what schools to send our children to, what after-school activities they participate in, what sports they play, what instruments they learn - we even choose, to an extent, what they wear and eat, and all with our children's best interests in mind. Sure, a picky toddler might prefer boxed macaroni and cheese, but we know that they need to eat more than that; it won't provide them with complete nutrition, which will hamper their health. Every day, parents make choices in the best interests of their children, and that includes their medical care. Parents have a right to choose what they believe is best for their children, and this bill would strip away a fundamental right that each parent has for their child.

I understand that many people who are in favor of all vaccines will argue against the anti-vaccine group in regards to "herd immunity," which refers to the ability of a vaccinated population to protect those in the community from a disease which they cannot be vaccinated against. I understand this concept; I was a student in nursing school, an EMT, and a phlebotomist. I have a basic understanding of human anatomy and some exposure to the medical community. However, using the argument that everyone must be vaccinated in order to protect those who physically cannot be vaccinated is flawed, and here is why. It is not sound to argue that I must give up my rights in order to protect others. If I were a recovering alcoholic and couldn't be in the presence of someone drinking alcohol without relapsing, would it be reasonable for me to go to a restaurant for dinner and make every other guest there abstain from drinking an alcoholic beverage, even if they were being responsible in their consumption? No. If the people there, out of the kindness of their hearts, decided to skip their drink for the night, that would be a beautiful and kind gesture of goodwill. I cannot, however, force others to conform to my needs.

My point is this; I understand that there is a small portion of our community that is more susceptible to contracting diseases that, while not life-threatening to the general public, are life-threatening to this particular population. However, we cannot force parents to go against their better judgement if they do not want to vaccinate their children. This population can take

steps to prevent exposure to these diseases that don't include forcing everyone else in the world to vaccinate their children.

We, as a state proud of granting people their "rights," cannot tolerate this hypocrisy and rip away parents' rights to do what they believe is best for their children. I do not care if you are pro-vaccine or anti-vaccine; neither side should be in favor of taking away the rights of American citizens. Why don't you, our government, provide for more scientific, unbiased studies that prove or disprove the safety and effectiveness of vaccines? If vaccines are really so helpful, why don't you provide us with solid, evidence-based studies and proof that they are as safe and helpful as you say they are? Because, if they are, you should not have to force people into receiving them or giving them to their children. Please consider alternatives to this bill. Please consider providing more unbiased studies about the risks and benefits of vaccines and provide Oregon parents with as many facts about vaccines as possible, and let them decide.

Please, in defense of our rights as parents and as human beings, oppose this bill. Defend our right to choose what we put into our bodies and protect us from being forced to go against our better judgement. Please defend our right to bodily autonomy and vote NO on this bill

Sincerely,

Alexzandra C. Sale