

Good afternoon,

I am writing to tell you that I oppose HB 3063, the bill to end all non-medical vaccine exemptions for Oregon schoolchildren. 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.

Only 2.7% of Oregon schoolchildren currently hold a philosophical or religious exemption, meaning that scientifically we already have high community immunity to disease.

Therefore, there's no reason to take away parental rights to those using non-medical exemptions. As an Oregonian, I can appreciate the extent of the worry people are feeling with the recent Washington State outbreak, but the fact is that our state has high vaccination rates and even most of us who are asking to remain with our ability to chose continue to vaccinate our children close to the recommended time.

There are many reasons parents use those exemptions. Perhaps their child has had a reaction to a vaccination that doesn't qualify for a medical exemption, and so they choose to not longer use that vaccine, even if they use others. Perhaps they are using a spaced out or reduced schedule.

In our family personally, with my two children getting ill and terrible eczema post-vaccines during their first year of life, we chose to follow a delayed vaccination schedule. I believe that this freedom to decide is my right as an American citizen and with the state of our country right now I don't think it's ever been a more important time to hold on tight to what makes us America. There is so much in this country I don't recognize right now. We are a country founded on immigrants who believed in humanity's right to freedom and the pursuit of happiness.

There is a lot of gray area that the exemptions allow while still keeping every child healthy and vaccination rates high.

I hope you will not support this bill.

Thank you for reading,

Esther Bleier