

Dear Committee,

My husband's brother had a severe allergic reaction to the MMR vaccine when he was two years old. He was healthy until he received the vaccine, at which point he experienced seizures and a 30-day coma. He was permanently brain damaged. His diagnosis was encephalitis following vaccination. This is listed on the vaccine insert for the MMR as a rare but potential risk. Due to this incident, my husband and I have been very careful about vaccinating our own children. Having the right to choose what vaccines my children receive and when they receive them is very important to me. Each family has the right to make medical decisions based on their own unique family history. Please do your own research! I would like the committee to consider the following points before voting on this bill.

1. Our vaccination rate in Oregon is already high. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/childvaxview/data-reports/mmr/trend/index.html> Exemption rates are misleading. Missing one dose of one vaccine requires an exemption. If my child has all of her vaccines except one, she falls under the exemption rate. The rate of unvaccinated children in Oregon is only 2.6%
2. The current CDC schedule requires that all newborns receive a Hepatitis B vaccine. This vaccine is only medically necessary if the mother has Hepatitis B. There are many studies that show this vaccine, with its' high dose of aluminum, is unsafe for infants.  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21568886>
3. Many young women and girls have reported adverse reactions to the HPV vaccine. The decision to vaccinate your son or daughter for a sexually transmitted disease is a personal one. Potential risks as well as a family's own personal beliefs on sex need to be considered. Mandating a vaccine for a sexually transmitted disease does not make sense, and the ethics of such should be considered. <https://kellybroganmd.com/new-gardasil/>
4. When you vote to remove all but medical exemptions, *you are not just taking away the right for parents to refuse the MMR vaccine, you are also taking away our right to say no to any vaccine, including the Hepatitis B and HPV vaccines that concern many parents. You are taking away the right to delay or spread out doses, you are taking away the right to say no to a second dose if a child or sibling has a bad reaction. You are taking away our rights to informed consent. We cannot consent if we do not have a choice.*
5. Medical exemptions are extremely hard to obtain. Please do not think that those people or children who need one can just run out and apply for one.
6. Refusing the right to a free, public education to children who do not receive all of their vaccines is discrimination. It is unfair to not allow a child to receive an education and educational services due to her family's religious or philosophical views. Refusing my daughter the right to go to school simply because I do not want to risk her health by vaccinating her against a sexually transmitted disease is discrimination.
7. Many of you support a woman's right to choose abortion because it is "her body, her choice". How can you not support the right of families' and persons to choose medical procedures when they are the ones assuming all risk? Vaccines carry risks as well as benefits. Whenever there are risks, especially severe health risks, we must protect our right to informed consent!

If you are unaware of the risks of vaccination, please read the vaccine inserts for each vaccine as well as adverse reactions reported to VAERS, the vaccine adverse event reporting system. I would also recommend the book, The Vaccine-Friendly Plan by Margulis, and Thomas.

<https://vaers.hhs.gov/>

8. There is no emergency in Oregon. This bill is unnecessary and discriminatory. We already have a requirement that parents receive education from an online module or from a care provider before filing a vaccine exemption. In addition, if there is an outbreak, children who are not fully vaccinated against that disease are required to stay home from school.

Please do not support HB 3063. It stomps all over our human rights. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Angela Gunther  
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