

From: [Brandy Lawler](#)
To: [HHC Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 3063
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Unfortunately I was unable to make it to the hearing regarding HB 3063 today. But here is what I would've liked to say.

Why is this an emergency action? Because a handful of measles cases have been diagnosed in the state? Because suddenly a small percentage of mothers are deemed unfit?

I don't see an emergency at all.

I have been a nanny for over 20 years and have cared for many children. I have been a mom for 2 years 8 months and some odd days. Is there a reason you doubt my ability to make choices for my daughter as her mother? Have I exhibited some signs of incompetency?

In my career as a nanny, I have assisted many parents in evaluating the options and making decisions regarding their child's healthcare and education.

In the past 3 years I have had to make many decisions regarding my own child's health, safety, and well being. Starting with decisions about my pregnancy. Then deciding to have an urgent c section because she was stuck under my pelvic bone and we had tried everything we could to move her. I have dealt with minor viruses, multiple ear infections and whether or not to have tubes put in her ears, a possible seizure, food intolerances, as well as a life threatening peanut allergy. I have also made decisions about what medications and treatments to give her for these issues. I have made decisions about which vaccines she has had. For my purposes today, I don't believe it matters whether she has had all of her vaccines or none of them or somewhere in between. Every decision I have made has been made with her best interest in mind. Every decision I have made has been made with research and discussion with her doctors and her father.

My daughter is only 2. But in the future I will have to make decisions regarding her education. I will have to decide if I want to send her to public school or a private school or homeschool her.

The health issues we've encountered with our daughter are relatively minor compared to some friends of ours who've dealt with multiple surgeries and diagnoses. Their parents, though, have also made many decisions regarding the healthcare and education of their children. Are they suddenly incompetent too?

Again. Where is the emergency?

When I took a break from working as a nanny, I spent 3 years at Oregon State Hospital. OSH serves patients with severe and persistent mental illness. Patients who have either committed a crime (anything from public indecency for peeing in the park to rape and murder) or who are unable to take care of themselves. These patients have the right to refuse treatments and medications. To be administered involuntary meds—to force them to take medication—the doctors have to prove to a judge that the patient is incompetent to make decisions for him or herself. I once accompanied a patient to such a hearing. It was a couple hours long. The information presented was detailed and thorough regarding the patient's history, diagnosis,

medications taken in the past, and why the doctors and therapists believed they were necessary now. The patient also got to speak for himself about why he was opposed to taking meds at that time. Although I knew many patients who were on involuntary meds, that particular patient was deemed able to make his own choices. He was locked up for a crime. He had a mental illness. He had multiple doctors stating he required medication. He was deemed by a judge to be competent and able to make those decisions on his own. And he was not forced to partake in any treatment he didn't agree was worth the risk.

Are you, as lawmakers, deciding that parents are suddenly incompetent? Are you making that decision without any proof from a professional? Without even knowing each of those parents individually?

Yes, maybe there are some parents who, for whatever reason, are incapable of making healthcare decisions for their child. Those parents should be evaluated individually.

Passing a law that inhibits parents' rights to weigh the risks and benefits for their own child before administering any treatment is abhorrent.

Every parent in the state of Oregon, every parent anywhere actually, should have the right to make decisions regarding their child's healthcare AND education. They should be able to choose which vaccines they want for their child. And they should be able to choose what type of schooling their child will receive.

There are many people here today who will give you facts & figures or horror stories of vaccine injuries. I am here today to point out that by passing this law, you are stating that parents are no longer capable of making decisions. You are declaring all parents to be incompetent. All without due process.

Say no to HB 3063 and taking away of parental rights.

Brandy Lawler

Sent from my iPhone