

I want to express my shock and sadness over HB 3063. In my opinion, it is a dangerous and slippery slope to allow our government to infringe on human rights and impose medical force on people. To remove a child from being able to get an education is not protecting anybody. It is only discriminating and hurting all of us. I understand the intention behind this bill, though I fully believe that intention is misguided. The true unvaccinated rate in Oregon, meaning the child has no vaccines, is 2.6% per the OHA. The 7.5% number that has been thrown around includes any child who has missed even a single dose of any vaccine, or whose parents have opted out of vaccines like those for Hepatitis B, a disease transmitted through sex or IV drug use.

How will passage of this bill affect compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which states that each who has a disability and needs special education and related services will receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE)? Is Oregon ready for a long, messy legal battle for denying special needs children an appropriate education? How will Oregon schools compensate for the loss of funding? Currently, over 30,000 children have an exemption for one or more doses. When these children are denied an education, their districts will suffer a loss of funding that they cannot afford. This bill would disproportionately affect the poor, for the whom the option to homeschool is not financially possible. To say this bill doesn't take away anyone's right is elitist and tone def. In this day and age many families struggle with two incomes. HB 3063 and the statements made by Representative Greenlick are dripping with classism. "So if they want to homeschool their kid and keep them out of other environments, that's their decision." What exactly does he mean by "other environments?" Has Representative Greenlick or any other lawmaker considered that homeschooled children are still active members of their communities? They play on soccer and basketball teams, they take dance and karate lessons. They visit Target and Fred Myer, OMSI and the Oregon Zoo. They go out to restaurants and attend church services. They attend birthday parties and Timbers games. Does Representative Greenlick plan to ban these children from all public places? ORS 433.416 forbids employers from mandating vaccination as a condition of employment, meaning you can't force teachers or other school employees to be vaccinated. I find the irony to be painful.

Please consider that Oregon parents care deeply for their children. Do not erode their parental rights. Oregon is not a nanny state, and Oregonians would like it to remain so. We value freedom and respect, and this bill protects neither.

Emily Gonzalez
Sherwood, OR