

From: [John Farmer](#)
To: [HHC Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Sen Hass](#)
Subject: Oppose HB 3063
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019 8:19:04 PM

To the Oregon House Health Care Committee

I am a Washington County resident who is writing to express my concern over the Mandatory Vaccination Bill HB 3063, the fast-track proposal to remove vaccine exemptions from the Oregon citizenry.

I am extremely grateful that my Oregon lawmakers are so vigilantly watching over us and am thankful for the hard work they do every day. I believe this bill, however, is a reactionary measure grounded firmly in fear, not the best interest of the people of Oregon.

Our beautiful state is widely known for being a bastion of individual thought, opinion and freedom. Oregon has done an amazing job supporting the LGBTQ+ community, planned parenthood, immigrants and many other organizations and groups. Let's not forget that parents who decide not to vaccinate their children (or delay vaccinations based on their doctor's recommendations) are no different than these other groups. They just want to do what they think is right for their children and their families.

My wife struggles with an autoimmune disorder and must be hyper-vigilant when it comes to what she puts into her body; whether that be food or medicine. I know for certain, if she were put in a position where she was forced to receive a vaccination, the chances of her reacting poorly are much higher than 'normal' folks. Since autoimmune disorders run through the family, both my wife and I and our doctor are very concerned that my kids are at greater risk of suffering negative, life-changing consequences should they be forced to receive medication or vaccination before their bodies are ready to receive it.

My wife and I take very seriously our commission to guide, protect and love our kids - this includes protecting them from potentially harmful substances included in vaccinations, medicine, food, etc. Don't get me wrong, I am a firm believer in vaccinations. I am happy we have them and grateful for them. But, you cross a line when you take away my ability to choose between putting something into my body that I don't want there.

Oregon is a wonderful place - the mountains, rivers, forests, beer, wine and people make it an awesome place to live. However, this bill is not good for Oregon, nor is it good for the people who live here. I implore you not to fall prey to the fear-mongering of our media and others who would use fear to drive policy and influence major, life-impacting decisions like the one you have before you. Please take time to truly research the issues, and not make rush decisions when there is clearly competing evidence on the matter. I ask that you would work with the medical community to develop programs that protect all children, regardless of the politics.

Thank you for your time and consideration in the matter.

- John and Joelle Farmer

