

As a licensed public school teacher in Oregon, I writing to let you know of my opposition to HB 3063. This law would negatively affect thousands of students in Oregon, and many private and charter schools with high vaccination exemption rates will shut down. Parents who choose to skip one vaccine, partially vaccinate, or not vaccinate at all are committed to their decision. They either have a child they watched get injured or regress in skills immediately following a vaccination, they've had serious vaccine reactions themselves, or they've weighed the risks and benefits, and in their child's health and medical situation, the risks outweigh the benefits. The popular term, "anti-vaxers" does not describe most of these parents. Most are actually "former vaxers" and many are "cautious vaxers" who, with their doctor's blessing, opt out of or delay just one vaccine on the schedule.

How would holding one's right to an education hostage unless they got vaccinated do anything to further this bill's purpose? Homeschool students still go to the playground, gymnastic class, Sunday school, OMSI, Target, Girl Scout meetings, summer camps, Library story times, birthday parties, and many other public places. They do not isolate themselves in their homes 24/7. Furthermore, there are teachers, parents, and grandparents who are unvaccinated, under-vaccinated, and who no longer have positive antibody titers who work, volunteer, and visit schools in Oregon. Are you going to require us as teachers to show proof of immunity for all the vaccines on the CDC schedule? Are you going to refuse entrance to an unvaccinated father who wants to help chaperone his son's field trip? If not, we can see right through your "good intentions" with this bill. **This bill's purpose is clearly not for immunity. It is for compliance.**

Students who are Hep B positive are permitted to attend school, but their identity is protected by privacy laws. Students who have received all vaccinations except the Hepatitis B series would not be allowed to attend school... because of a vaccine to protect against a disease that is transmitted primarily through sex and IV drug use.

If this law passes, all future vaccines added to the Oregon schedule will be required for school, and when HPV vaccine is added (because it's not *if*, it's *when* at this point), how is that helping stop communicable diseases? HPV is transmitted through sexual contact, not coughing on your lab partner. A student not having sex does not need this vaccine, yet if they have every single one on the schedule except this vaccine, they would lose their right to an education when it's added. And don't let me show you the extremely long list of severe reactions and deaths that have occurred since this vaccine has been introduced. I have met many parents, including parents of my students who vaccinate on schedule, but refuse Gardasil, the HPV vaccine. It is simply too risky of a vaccine. Would you give it to your teenage daughter?

The common argument is that we should vaccinate to protect the immunocompromised who can't be vaccinated. Well, if someone is truly immunocompromised, they should not be in school, because the risk of catching a cold, RSV, hand, foot, and mouth disease, and many other communicable diseases without vaccines is too great.

This law would not accomplish anything except cause WAY TOO MANY students to lose their access to an education. Students in poverty will lose their access to free lunches. Students on IEPs would lose their federal mandated right to services such as OT, PT, speech therapy, and more. Students who are thriving in school will be pulled out and educated by parents **without the skills to educate**. Why? Because parents who are committed to not vaccinating or not vaccinating further would do ANYTHING to protect their child from damage they've seen happen and know could happen again. They will make the choice to homeschool. Just think about the implications of hundreds and thousands of homeschool students in our state whose parents do not want to be homeschooling them and did not adequately prepare them like a school could have. How would it affect our state if these thousands of students are not college or career force ready upon entering adulthood?

Living in America should be about choice, including medical choice. If there's a risk to any pharmaceutical drug or medical procedure, patients are given the choice to weigh the risks and benefits before taking it. This is forced vaccination and does not allow for choice in a civilized society. I'm not anti-vaccine, but I am for safe vaccines, and right now, not all vaccines are guaranteed safe. **We shouldn't blanket mandate an untested schedule on all children without considering individual medical histories.** The science isn't settled. Science is forever evolving. **Medical exemptions are pretty much impossible to get in Oregon**, and even if the law changes to allow doctors to approve them rather than OHA, they won't out of fear of losing their license like what has happened to some doctors in California. **Please, please think of the children who deserve equal access to education when voting on this law.** Think of how many will be forced to leave the school system... because they will. They will leave in record numbers.

Would you like to be mandated to get every vaccine on the adult CDC schedule or risk losing your job? There is an adult schedule, and most don't know it exists or follow it. Look it up. It's easy to mandate something for someone else, but when it's your own body, or your own child you've seen regress after a vaccine, you think twice. **Please consider the right to an education that this bill would strip from thousands of children in Oregon. Please oppose HB 3063.**

Thank you,
Erin
Clackamas County public school teacher