

To my State Legislators,

I know that the vast majority of times vaccines are safe and effective (excluding the flu shot, which is not very effective at < 60% efficacy). But this campaign to hurriedly pass a vaccine bill eliminating all but medical exclusions, and not allowing a reasonable timeframe for public input and comment is a misuse of legislative power and playing off fear-mongering. You are better than this. The time frame expected for compliance after issuance of this bill would also isolate and disenfranchise people, forcing them to home school, leave the state, or under duress feel forced to complete a lengthy list of vaccinations that they fear may do harm to their child. A more reasonable timeframe for public comment and, if the bill is passed, compliance to meet these requirements is needed.

I chose a philosophical exemption for my daughter in order to allow her immune system to mature. My mother, my sister, and I all have autoimmune diseases; and my brother suffered from Guillain–Barré syndrome after a vaccination. I understood the risks in delaying vaccination. I got chickenpox twice as a child, and the second time I got it, I ended up with encephalitis (it was horrible for my mother to deal with, and I lost a large chunk of childhood memories). I understand the importance of vaccinations, and agree with a child care facility/schools right to have my child quarantined at home during a contagious disease outbreak. But I also understand the importance of doing what we feel is best/healthiest for our children. When my daughter turned 5, I started getting her up to date on vaccinations, a few each year (starting with MMR). My hope is that this delay perhaps gave her immune system a better start and hopefully she will not also suffer from an autoimmune disease (as we really do not understand why autoimmune diseases have increased, but this may correlate with our increasing number of vaccinations, no?). By August 2019 (at 8 yo), she will be fully vaccinated (minus the annual flu shot). So, this bill won't really effect me or my daughter, but I still feel strongly that what you are trying to do, in the way you are trying to do it, is wrong.

Vaccine injury is real. I don't give my daughter the flu vaccine because she ended up with lymphadenitis. [1] That is a fairly minor vaccine reaction that did eventually resolve after 2 weeks, but others have far more lasting effects and even death. Perhaps if the monetary compensation provided to individuals after vaccine injury came from the pockets of the vaccine big pharma, then they would care more about looking at the ingredients they choose for adjuncts (e.g., formaldehyde, mercury, and other KNOWN toxins) and the safety of the product. As it stands, they are not held legally responsible for vaccine injury and we, the tax payers, supply the funds for vaccine injury compensation. That system is broken. Big pharma has no investment in bettering their formulations and making them safer. And neither do you if you accept contributions from big pharma. Care to pass a bill to change funding of vaccine injury compensation?

You and the Oregon Health Authority claim to care about the health of our children and are trying to push through this vaccine bill, yet OHA allows schools and childcare facilities to have lead levels in drinking water up to 10 ppb (a non-health-based value), which is an order of magnitude greater than the level that the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends (1 ppb; a health-based risk value established to keep blood lead levels below those that can cause neurodevelopmental problems).[2] Lead in water supplies and in homes is doing much more damage to our children than the few individuals who choose not to fully vaccinate or delay vaccination. If you truly care about the health of our population, look to increase vaccination education and reduce fear (not forcing people to do something they fear). Instead look at fixing our lead levels in our communities and pass a bill that does not allow facilities serving children (schools, child care centers, etc) to have lead levels exceeding 1ppb.

Please vote no on passing HB 3063. Reintroduce another bill that (1) allows for reasonable duration of public comment, (2) focuses on education and fear reduction, and (3) focuses on highly contagious diseases (not requiring vaccination for ALL vaccines, but instead focus on those that are highly contagious like measles).

Thank you for reading my comments,
Heather Patterson
Portland, Oregon

References

- [1] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3014838/>
- [2] <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/1/e20161493>