

From: Angela Zehava <angela.zehava@stanfordalumni.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 6:55 PM
To: Rep Salinas <Rep.AndreaSalinas@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Hayden <Rep.CedricHayden@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Nosse <Rep.RobNosse@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Testimony HB 3063

Dear Committee Members:

Although I am dismayed by the resurgence of measles in our northwest community, I disagree that force is the best way to solve the problem.

My child was born premature at a time when vaccinations contained mercury. I was opposed to giving my child vaccinations laced with heavy metals, and I was also leery of giving two to four vaccinations at a time to a child without a strong immune system. This was a parents' choice I made at the time, I still think it was the right choice to make, and it would have placed an undue burden on me to find a medical provider who would be willing to write for me an "excuse" (as if I myself were a child!).

Forcing families into a one size fits all vaccine scheme will only force more families into homeschooling. I absolutely would have homeschooled if I were required to give my child the MMR to attend school. Homeschooling is a demanding undertaking. Forcing families who do not want to homeschool and who are not prepared to homeschool into homeschooling out of necessity will lead to poor educational outcomes for many children. Further, exclusion will not protect anyone! Homeschooled children are everywhere in their communities: restaurants, parks, museums, martial arts schools, sports programs and so forth. Many after school programs have homeschool programs during the day. You won't be accomplishing anything by exclusion.

If this committee wants to raise vaccination rates in Oregon, it can take several concrete steps:

1. Require pharmaceutical companies to disclose all vaccine ingredients and explain why each is there. This will build trust of vaccines (if trust is warranted) and expose companies that are exposing children to unnecessary harms.
2. Require pharmaceutical companies to offer individual doses. Many people are not against vaccines per se, but wish instead to break them up and spread them out. My son almost didn't get the measles vaccine because I couldn't find a single dose (eventually his doctor found one). I gave him each component of the MMR separately. This would be hugely effective.