

I'm a lifelong Democrat. I'm a mother of 2, I volunteer and support Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, and Mercy Corps. My daughter is in Kindergarten. I'm active with the PTA, and volunteer in the classroom. My son will be in preschool next year. My daughter is also on an IEP. For genetic medical reasons, and with consultation with our drs - we have opted to vaccinate selectively for certain diseases, such as Measles and Pertussis, where there is more concern about contagiousness and severity, but have done it on a spaced out and delayed schedule.

I'm a fierce mom and will do anything to protect my kid. If it comes down with a choice of rushing through the entire catch-up schedule with additional doses and vaccines that are unnecessary and a medical risk to my child, or stay enrolled in the public school, I'm going to protect my daughters health. The current narrative ignores the fact that vaccines are not risk-free, that they really can and do cause injuries and long term side effects.

I fall into the class of vaccine hesitant parents that are highly educated and have means, and there are quite a few of us here in your district. Most of us will not allow our children to be vaccinated against our (and our doctors') better judgement, which puts us in a very difficult position... With choices that are untenable for some families who lack the means or flexibility for alternative school choices. I suspect that most of us will either find a way to work out a medical exemption by working the system (acknowledging our privilege and ability to do so...), homeschool, or move out of state. Some will likely choose to fight this in the courts who feel they are being discriminated against on the basis of religion and/or disability.

I see firsthand the struggles of the schools with lack of funding. Our schools need so much - enough teachers, reading and math specialists, equipment and supplies, smaller class sizes, art, music, foreign language. They need more counselors and mental health support. There is a suicide and substance abuse epidemic. We need safe and clean and lead-free buildings! **These are the real emergencies.** -- There is no more fat to cut. This bill will cost money to the schools when they lose the funding from the students who are pulled out. Has this impact been studied yet? **Why is this bill not in front of the Education Committee?**

Why the rush to do something so drastic? We are not in a state of emergency, the Measles is contained, We saw firsthand that the current policy is working. The people who were exposed were quarantined, the public were notified and kept informed, and the outbreak has been relatively contained to a small religious community with a lower than average vaccination rate. This has not been the "tinderbox" situation that was feared. In addition, MMR vaccine uptake has **voluntarily** increased over 500%. In Oregon, we are above the herd immunity level for measles and all the other vaccine preventable diseases. Where is the push for this change coming from? It's coming from Public Health, who also has a revolving door with the pharmaceutical industry. It is the families and constituents that are opposed to this with a

passion. There is a reason for that. Please don't pit medically fragile families against each other.

Government is overstepping its bounds here. I cannot let a government agency (that has a revolving door with the pharma industry) dictate what medical procedures my family can and cannot have. I am passionately pro-choice when it comes to health and bodily autonomy. I fight for women to have the right to make choices that affect their bodies when it comes to reproductive health, and I do the same for families that are concerned about what medical procedures their children have. As a strong supporter of reproductive rights, you want the woman to have the choice to make about her own body with her healthcare provider. Can't you see the parallel here? Families feel like their medical autonomy is being taken away with this bill. I fight for everyone to have access to healthcare AND education. I want to keep the right to make important medical decisions for my family.

Thank you,
Abi Thyer-Ohly