

As a mother of three precious children, I oppose HB 3063. I have lived in Oregon since I was a child, and have always dreamed of raising my family here. This bill directly stops me from being able to do what is best for my children. My oldest child, has a traumatic brain injury, and therefore she cannot handle the vaccines. We tried to space them out thinking she would be fine and that was definitely not the case. She went from a social butterfly, talking up a storm, and being energetic to completely stopping all of her speech, secluding herself, and not wanting to interact with others. Her first word at 6 months was "dada", her next word was at 3 years old and she said "no". I didn't hear her say "love you" until she was almost 4 years old. My heart broke constantly hearing of her peers or other children who were similar in age to her talking so much and knowing I may never hear my sweet girl tell me she loved me. We have spent almost 4 years in speech therapy, group speech therapy groups, and other various therapies trying to get our daughter back to where she should be as a normal 5 1/2 year old little girl. She relies on the non-medical exemptions to be available because OHA has made it to where she is not able to qualify for a medical thus leaving her pediatrician to suggest we utilize the ability of a non medical exemption. The potential of this bill passing will cost her the education she deserves as well as stop all the progress she has made so far. She has been in a private school, that we pay for out of pocket for the last three years and has made incredible amounts of progress so far, it would be devastating for her to lose all of that. Vaccine injuries are not one in a million. I have seen them happen with my own eyes, they do happen sadly.

My middle fellow, he has pretty severe asthma, and takes steroids daily to try to keep it from launching into a full blown asthma attack. It says on the CDC website someone who is taking steroids should refrain from vaccines. Prior to him being diagnosed with asthma he also had a regression developmentally and socially. He is also in speech therapy, group speech therapy and a specialized preschool on a non medical exemption, because he does not qualify for a medical one. His pediatrician has suggested we stick to non medical exemptions because he doesn't qualify for medical either. This bill would also stop him from receiving his education as well.

This bill is leaving so many questions unanswered. The OHA states that the completely unvaccinated rate is 2.6% which leaves the vaccinated rate at 97.4%. The unvaccinated is the minority population, this bill would be discrimination against the minority. Also, who will help pay the bills for families who are having to go down to one income due to no schools to prevent them from having to compromise their religious belief? Where are people going to be able to worship and attend religious services if they cannot go to church since their church has a preschool or daycare there? If unvaccinated children are such a threat to vaccinated children, what about all the staff, coaches, administrators at schools will they be required to show proof of current vaccination status? If not, why are they not held to the same standards as the children? Why are they allowed special treatment? They are there just as much as the children, breathe the same air as the children, bring germs to share just like other children. What about the parents and family that flow in and out of the schools during drop off or pick up?

That is why I encourage you to vote in opposition of this bill. It is so important for parents to be able to decide what is best for their children, after all we do know our children the best since no two children are the exact same in every form as another.

Regards,

Josey McKee