

Public Testimony Submission for HB 3063

I believe in science, I believe vaccines save lives, and I strongly oppose HB 3063 as a violation of human rights and medical ethics.

The past century has seen many scientific discoveries that have improved public health - antibiotics and vaccines are two of the most important. It took us about 80 years to realize that the widespread use of antibiotics were doing more harm than good. Selective antibiotic use improves health - the overuse compromises health.

Science is not static, it evolves as more information becomes known. Vaccines in general have been around longer than antibiotics, but they have not been used at current levels for very long. In the 1940s the recommended vaccine schedule was for four diseases (Smallpox, Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis). In the 1950s, Polio was added to the list. (Make no mistake - I am grateful for that polio vaccine, despite its problems.) In the 1960s, the MMR was added, bring the total diseases vaccines were recommended for up to eight. I was born in 1970s.

By 2010 I was a parent, and the list of diseases that children were recommended to be vaccinated for now stood at fourteen diseases. But the DTP given in my childhood had been taken off the market, and a replacement (Dtap/Tdap) issued. The polio vaccine also had to be changed due to safety concerns. The formulation of the MMR vaccine has changed more than once since the 1970s. That means every vaccine medication recommended for my child did not exist when I was born.

Let's go back to the comparison with antibiotics. I'm pretty sure every childhood appointment I had with my pediatrician ended with a rx for them - including for reasons we wouldn't use them now. **Who would have thought that too many antibiotics could have such widespread harm - including things such as the increase in Type 2 Diabetes? Even still, I have a hard time wrapping my head around that connection!** (https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/microbiome-infographic-2016_v1.pdf)

But it makes me wonder: **Will we one day regret the speed with which we expanded vaccine use? Believing in science means believing in the process of scientific discovery, and that process takes time.**

We don't know the long term impact of the current vaccine schedule, but we do know that no medication is without side effects and risks. It is important that private health care decisions remain the right of the family who must live with the long term consequences of those choices.

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