

My name is Jessica Smith and I am a college educated mom from Portland, OR. My husband and I have a 16 year old daughter in public high school, and a 10 ½ month old baby boy in part-time day care.

I am in opposition of House Bill 3063, which would end non-medical vaccination exemptions for children in Oregon. I am opposed to this bill for the following 6 reasons.

1. Elimination of personal choice
2. Vaccines are risky
3. Education discrimination
4. Religious discrimination
5. Expensive - for both Oregon and families
6. Bill won't accomplish desired outcome.

This bill, if passed, will remove freedom and personal choice. Government should not be involved in the medical decisions of patients or parents regarding accepting drugs or other medical interventions. This is a serious intrusion into individual liberty, autonomy, and parental decisions about child-rearing. Patients and parents have the right to refuse vaccination!

Those in favor of this bill will say that vaccines are safe and effective. However the US Supreme Court and Congress have ruled that vaccines are risky, as evidenced by the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program paying out some \$4 billion to those who have been damaged by vaccines.

The risks and benefits vary with frequency and severity of disease, vaccine safety, and individual patient factors. These must be evaluated by patient and physician, not imposed by a government agency. And there is no "one size fits all" solution. Parents, with input from their physicians, must maintain the right to make the healthcare decisions that are right for their family.

Vaccines are neither 100% safe nor 100% effective. Nor are they the only available means to control the spread of disease. The current outbreak of whooping cough in California in individuals who **have been fully vaccinated** proves this. Individuals who have been fully vaccinated continue to come down with vaccine "preventable" diseases, but the media spins the story and the blame somehow falls on unvaccinated individuals, even when they have no signs of the disease themselves. Additionally, manufacturers are virtually immune from product liability, so the incentive to develop safer products is diminished. Unvaccinated persons with no exposure to a disease and no evidence of a disease pose no risk to society!

It is discriminatory to withhold an education from children whose families have opted out of vaccines. Additionally, the bill will not achieve the desired effect. Many of us that oppose this bill are doing so because of deeply held philosophical and/or religious beliefs. A change in the law will not change our opinions! The approximately 31,000 unvaccinated kids in Oregon will not simply line up to get their shots. Oregon schools will lose out on more than \$400,000,000 dollars annually if parents are forced to quit their jobs to homeschool. Not to mention the devastating effect to those families that depend on two incomes.

My 16 year old daughter is a sophomore in high school. She has a part-time job, and she plays competitive soccer with a club team. She is unvaccinated. If passed this bill would mean she would not be able to graduate high school with her friends and would instead have to be homeschooled. Her job at the mall does not require immunizations, nor does her soccer league. She is no less a "threat" to the

public when she is working or playing sports. Passing the bill would not mean that she would get vaccinated, it only infringes upon her right to a public education.

Bottom line, regardless of where you personally stand on the vaccine debate, this is really an issue about individual rights and government overreach. The State has no business dictating medical decisions for an individual. In the name of liberty, please vote NO on HB 3063!