

27 February 2019

To whom it may concern,

My name is Aurora Cushman, CBD (CBI). I am a wife, a mother, a sister, and a proud Oregonian. I am urgently writing to you in regards HB3063. The bill that would take away non-medical vaccine exemptions in Oregon.

This issue ways heavy on my heart because I am a mother to two beautiful girls. Like all mothers, I want what is best for them. I want them to be healthy, happy, and get an education. I don't want to have to comprise my moral and religious beliefs so they can have a right to an education. I don't want to risk their health so they can have an education.

Vaccines, like all medical procedures, has potential side effects. In a country where medical error is one of the leading causes of death, I believe that it's important for every patient to think critically and do research on medical procedures, medicine, and vaccines. Let's look at the Hep B vaccine. Some of the potential side effects according to the CDC website are: allergic reactions (to latex and yeast), dizziness, headaches, upper respiratory illness, Gastrointestinal Disorders, Psychiatric Disorders. As a parent, it's their role to decide if those risks out way the potential for hepatitis B.

One reason why myself and other's choose to not use certain vaccines is because of the use of aborted fetal tissue in some vaccines. This is information that is available on the CDC website and by no means a conspiracy theory. People who are against abortion for moral or religious reasons often don't want to support that by getting those vaccines.

I think that removing nonmedical exemptions is an unethical way to promote vaccines. I understand what this bill is seeking to protect our community. However, I believe that is misguided. This forces people to comprise their personal and religious beliefs, so their children can have an education. As we can see from the Vancouver area outbreak, school's aren't usually exposure locations.

Another reason why this bill is misguided is because the majority of people who use exemptions are parenting choosing to not get certain vaccines. One of the first shots that a child receives is the Hep B vaccine. This is often given when a baby is less than 24 hours old. According to the CDC, "Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). Hepatitis B is transmitted when blood, semen, or another body fluid from a person infected with the Hepatitis B virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. This can happen through sexual contact; sharing needles, syringes, or other drug-injection equipment; or from mother to baby at birth." If a mother doesn't have Hepatitis B and isn't living in an environment where that could easily be transmitted, this vaccine isn't necessary to give at that time.

Instead of forcing people, putting money towards vaccine promotion and education would be a far more ethical way to promote vaccines instead of force. I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this. You have been placed in a spot a great responsibility, and I know you desire to do what is best for this state and its people.

Shalom,

Aurora Lee Cushman, CBD (CBI)