

Dear Representative Salinas,

I am writing to you to ask that you oppose HB 3063.

I am a board member of City View Charter School, a public K-8 charter school in Hillsboro, Oregon.

I want to be clear that I am not writing to you in order to officially represent City View or the City View Charter School board as a whole. I am writing to you as an individual school board member who has serious concerns with this legislation.

While I appreciate the concerns that likely spurred the writing of this proposed bill, I am concerned about how such a bill will negatively impact both City View Charter School specifically and school children across Oregon broadly.

As a charter school, City View receives only a small portion of what the non-charter public schools receive per-student in funding. As the fundraising chairperson, I have to oversee our additional fundraising efforts to help make up the difference in this funding gap to preserve programs like PE, art, and to help us maintain our small class sizes (our charter limits us to a maximum of 24 students per class). **This year we need to raise \$37,000 to keep our small school with less than 200 students operational** (that's before the budget crisis I explain below! If we need to fundraise to make up the difference this number could go as high as \$57,000).

Last month, we began to experience a budget crisis when our enrollment dropped by just four students in the middle of the school year. **The loss of only four students was enough to send our operating budget thousands of dollars into the red.** Every student at City View matters as an individual but they also matter to the budget from a financial perspective. **If our enrollment drops, we are not able to meet our budget, which in turn could hurt all students in the school if we have to start cutting staff or programs.** Therefore any proposed legislation which might reduce our enrollment numbers is bad news for our school.

There are students currently enrolled at City View who have non-medical vaccine exemptions. While I do not personally know all of their stories I do know that some of the students with non-medical vaccine exemptions were advised to stop vaccinating by their pediatricians (including my own son who is a third grader). We also have students whose families opted out of some vaccines for religious reasons. **Each of these students are welcome members of our school community and any bill that would ban them from attending due to their vaccine status hurts our school culture and community as well as our ability to meet our budget.**

As a school, we are committed to serving students regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, parental status, national origin or disability (City View Charter School policy 115 regarding Safe and Equal Educational Opportunity). **HB 3063 stands to hurt some students on the grounds of both religion and disability.**

Finally, as an active school board member, quality education in Oregon is of great importance to me. Beyond the scope of our individual school, any bill which would prevent Oregon children from receiving access to a free and appropriate public education will hurt Oregon. It is absolutely essential that every student in Oregon have access to a high-quality education which will help them become productive citizens and members of our global society.

The Oregon Department of Education has an initiative to increase school attendance called Every Day Matters. This program is part of Governor Brown's strategy to improve Oregon's high school graduation rate.

Regarding Every Day Matters, Oregon Department of Education director, Colt Gill says, "Reducing chronic absenteeism requires all of us to do our part. Schools need to make sure students are welcomed and engaged, families need to recognize the importance of attendance and *every community needs to look at local barriers that can impact student attendance.*" (emphasis mine) **If passed, HB 3063 will be a direct barrier to student attendance if the more than 31,000 students who have exemptions for even one vaccine are barred from attending school. The negative impact of HB 3063 on school attendance would stand in direct opposition to the stated goals of the Oregon Department of Education.**

Oregon can't afford to lose more students. Every student needs to be in school. Even those with non-medical vaccine exemptions.

Please vote no on HB 3063 to keep Oregon kids in school.

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Fundraising Chair
City View Charter School Board of Directors

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