

Subject: HB 3063

March 1, 2019

Representative Salinas and House members,

My name is Chip Halverson and I speak to you as a parent, teacher, former NEA local association president, president of a national children's non profit advocacy organization focused on indoor environmental health, and as a physician who treats patients who have chosen to be fully vaccinated or follow a modified schedule based on their individual health history, similar to many of the testimonies you heard from constituents yesterday.

Thank you for being willing to take testimony for so many hours yesterday. Ninety seconds is a short time to voice concerns for or against the bill in question. As a result I am following up with you now and appreciate your time in reading more about why I appose HB 3063.

As a former teacher who taught in the classroom for the first time nearly 33 years ago, I could never have imagined I would have gone from teaching about issue of political, religious, civil and human rights to being a physician who would need to be speaking up for medical freedom in the context of vaccine exemptions.

My first introduction to issues concerning safety about vaccines was after our first child was born in 1998 and the nightly news broadcasted the removal of the Rotavirus vaccine from the market due to dozens of negative reactions that required emergency intestinal surgeries in infants. My PCP MD pediatrician instructed my wife and I that it didn't make sense to do some vaccines and especially not that one.

Fast forward ten years and I'm now in medical school and have a patient who received a flu vaccine with his wife and a friend and all three reported severe reactions. The reaction was enough for the MD of the wife to include in her chart that she should not receive anymore flu vaccines. The friend missed several days of work and all experienced a rash. Unfortunately the patient who was having kidney dysfunction and was stable with improving labs spiraled downward and never recovered from the progress that was made previously. I was only a medical

student at the time but it was agreed by the supervising doctors that certainly future vaccines should be approached cautiously.

It was very emotional to hear all the testimonies from people who have experienced cancer in their lives, either personally or that of family members. I too have had the same unfortunate experience in our family. My wife was diagnosed with Leukemia (AML) almost 9 years ago. I remember specifically the OHSU doctors telling us it was important that children who had been recently vaccinated in the 3 different classrooms of our children could potentially cause problems with my wife's immune system. The thinking, though rare, was that our children could be a potential vector of the residual effects of vaccinations and then infect their mother. Again, this came from the conventional medicine community. Simply put, we didn't argue and informed the teachers who later informed the students and parents in our children's classrooms. I also remember some doctors urging my wife to get revaccinated shortly after her bone marrow transplant and the head of the department intervening thankfully. We were told specifically that suggestions for vaccines is the last thing we should be doing and it could be potentially problematic as she simply could not be able to manufacture the immunity from the vaccines.

As you can see from these three short examples, vaccines safety and usage needs to be considered. In fact I remember learning things in immunology when I started medical school only to have it changed as new discoveries were made. Simply put, science changes and it's important to keep up on the science. Case in point, at one time almost all patients received full body radiation prior to a bone transplant along with a very aggressive cocktail of chemotherapy. My wife received chemotherapy but did not receive full body radiation. We are fortunate science through many studies and research safer treatments in oncology.

I didn't get a chance to mention the Wednesday OPB broadcast of Dr. Joel Amundson, MD. If you get a chance please listen to it as his new approach to education is by far more important and proofing effective than his original approach of pushing vaccines. We really need more common sense and need to stop creating a pro or anti division. It really is about medical freedom and informed consent. We certainly aren't in a crisis. My parents remind me that measles for example was a childhood event just like all of my children had when they contracted chickenpox.

Our system is working and we shouldn't fix it a system with more governmental intrusion when the system isn't broke.

Finally, please consider a few words when contemplating your position of this bill: Medical Freedom, IEP's, Religious Freedom, Educational Discrimination, Compromise, Parents, Common Sense, Logic, Empathy, Non-fear based influence, Safety, Efficacy, Childhood Injury, Industry Liability, Money, Medical Inserts, Open Mindedness and most importantly Children.

Sincerely,

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PS. Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.