



TERESA ALONSO LEON
State Representative
House District 22

May 7, 2019

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I wish to submit the following explanation for my 'yes' vote on House Bill 3063.

My vote on this legislation was not an easy one. I spent weeks meeting with constituents and individuals on both sides of this issue. I am strongly pro-vaccine and know how important high vaccination rates are to the overall wellbeing of our communities. I also heard from parents who wanted to be able to make the choice to vaccinate their children as well as individuals with religious beliefs that prevented them from receiving vaccines.

I have the utmost respect for individuals on both sides of this issue and do not diminish their positions. Ultimately, however, I realized that the only way to honor individual choice, would be to compromise public health.

As an elected official, I believe every decision I make must be done with the greater good in mind. In this case, the greater good of my entire community, and the health and wellbeing of infants, pregnant women, individuals with compromised immune systems, seniors and those who medically cannot receive vaccines, outweighed my concerns for individual choice.

My commitment as a legislator, now and in the future, is to continue working hard to ensure everyone in Oregon, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation or religious affiliation feels safe and welcome in our state.

Sincerely,

Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon