

## Gary Leif

### State Representative

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### Committees

2 Joint Ways & Means Committees  
#1. Transportation and Economic Development  
#2. Public Safety

## OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE 900 COURT ST NE SALEM, OREGON 97301

2019-05-07

No Vote - Explanation on HB 3063 Vaccinations

I would like to explain my "NO" vote position on HB3063. Let me be clear I am not opposed to vaccinations! I am opposed to taking our rights of citizens away. The First Amendment guarantees their right of choice. Mandatory vaccinations removes their right.

The bill represents further efforts by the liberal legislature to replace our constitutional rights with government-controlled mandates. We remain a country founded on individual rights and liberties, but so many in our current government believe that regulations should replace liberties.

Government has a responsibility but not an obligation to ensure peace, security, and domestic tranquility. Our constitution is clear that those responsibilities are balanced against individual freedoms and liberties. In this country, parents are responsible for the decisions made on behalf of their children.

This is not a question of medical efficiency, but it is a question of parental rights. We are not a socialist country, just because the government believes citizens should behave in a certain manner does not give them the right to mandate behaviors.

I continue to watch as the large metropolitan liberal politicians pass bills and regulations without seeking the will of all of the people. I fear this will be another case where the voice of rural Oregon will be ignored. I would like to see this and other regulations that raise taxes and alter our democratic rights be put to a constitutional level vote of the people.

In America, we are blessed with an outstanding medical system that provides many options for disease prevention. It is the right of every citizen to choose which of those options they select for their personal situation. In America, we are a democracy and the government works for the people, we therefore have choices. If the government forces mandatory vaccinations against the will of some of the people then we move dangerously close to becoming a socialistic country.

I believe that each individual American must balance their personal, religious, and family values in order to make the decisions that they deem in their best interest and the interest of their children. As Americans we must never accept the premise that the government has the best solution, and that the government has the right to force decisions upon the citizens. So "NO", I do not believe that the government has the right to force Americans to receive vaccinations to which they have personal, moral, or religious objections.

Respectfully,

Representative Gary Leif  
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