



May 6, 2019

TO: Chief Clerk Sekerak
RE: Vote Explanation for HB 3063

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

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

I want to begin with my firm affirmation that I think vaccines are safe and effective, and should continue to be an important public health tool to keep our communities healthy and thriving.

Like many of my colleagues, I have received significant outreach both in support of and in opposition to HB 3063. On both sides of this issue there are parents, advocates and legislators striving to make sure that children have the opportunity to live happy and healthy lives. In listening to the input from my constituents, I heard from many parents who are concerned with the education of their children and how this bill dramatically changes their current educational opportunities and plans.

While I believe in the ability of vaccines to prevent disease and promote healthy communities and schools, I have strong concerns regarding how HB 3063 would disrupt education for thousands of Oregon students. As a teacher of 42 years, I believe in ensuring access to quality education for all Oregon children. While I agree with its goal, it is my fear that HB 3063 overreaches and would not give Oregon students and parents necessary flexibility to accommodate complicated health and educational considerations.

For example, if a child has a complicated medical history and a parent already has arranged for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), this bill would nullify that child's ability to continue with their IEP in a school setting they feel comfortable with if the student cannot get an exemption in one of the narrowly allowed circumstances.

I think there are policy pathways to navigate these concerns and improve the vaccination rates in our schools and communities, without so severely limiting education opportunities of Oregon children. It is for these reasons and others that I cannot support HB 3063 in its current form.

Sincerely,

Representative Susan McLain

