

February 28, 2019

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: Please support HB 3063!

Dear Senator Merkley:

Hello, my name is Amarpriti Bains and I am a physician who works as a Hospitalist at the Portland VA medical Center. I am writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

I have always been a strong proponent of vaccines but, one year ago, the importance of vaccines became all the more personal when my son was born. Right now, Oregon and Southwest Washington are seeing first-hand the effects of the current measles outbreak on individuals, families, our caregivers and our community. This has been terrifying. The effects of measles on young children can be devastating, including deafness and brain damage. Infants like my son are too young to receive the vaccine and, given how aggressively contagious measles is, any exposure poses a high risk for infection. This outbreak was preventable. Those who opt out of vaccinating their children could place other vulnerable members of the population who receive the vaccine but also those unable to receive the vaccine by herd immunity.

Despite what you may have heard, vaccines do not cause autism in children. Scientists at the CDC, the Institute of Medicine and other reputable entities have never found a credible link between the use of vaccines and autism in children.

Vaccines save lives. Please support HB 3063!

Thank you,

Amarpriti Bains