

February 28, 2019

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

RE: Please support HB 3063!

Dear Senate Health Care committee

Hello, my name is Robin Tittle and I am an internal medicine physician at the Portland VA writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

I am not only a physician but also mom of two young children, 3 months and 2 years old. I am writing you today in both these roles to express my significant concern over the current measles outbreak but more broadly over the high (and apparently increasing) percentage of families who have opted out of vaccinating their young children for non-medical reasons.

While this issue has been presented as a matter of personal choice, it is actually an issue of public health and public safety. I have to worry about where I take my 3 month old child because he is too young to be vaccinated. One of the key times in which we legislate to limit some people's freedoms is when they encroach on the freedom and safety of others, and this is one of those times.

In addition, as a physician, it worries me that by allowing parents to opt out of vaccines for their children, we are validating a belief system that has been debunked by extensive research. This is not a matter of differing opinions; there is significant scientific evidence to show the safety of vaccinations, and it is time that we stopped letting a small group of very vocal advocates of false ideas dominate the discussion.

Vaccines save lives. Please support HB 3063!

Thank you,

Robin Tittle, MD MS
Assistant Professor, Oregon Health and Sciences University
Academic Hospitalist, Portland VA