

February 25, 2019

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

RE: Please support HB 3063!

Dear Michael Dembrow:

Hello, my name is Rose Heuser 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.

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 outbreak was preventable. Those who opt out of vaccinating their children could place other vulnerable members of the population, including infants and those with compromised immune systems, at greater risk for exposure.

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.

In order for herd immunity to work, we need at least 95% of the population vaccinated to protect infants who are still undergoing vaccinations and the immune compromised. It is unbelievable to me that 7.5% of kindergartners are not immunized. Vaccines are the safest and most effective public health intervention that we have. Vaccines eradicate disease and prevent illness, cost to society, and cost to the economy. We should pass HB 3063 like California did. If a parent chooses to not vaccinate for non medical reasons, then that child should not attend school and expose others to the risk of their decision.

Vaccines save lives. Please support HB 3063!

Thank you,

Rose Heuser, MD