

To the Men and Women of our State Government and the Citizens of Oregon
a Message of Serious Concern --

Our society in Oregon urgently needs HB 3063 to help ensure safety and avoid brain damage and deaths from Measles, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Mumps, Chicken Pox, Polio and other conditions infecting vulnerable immunity challenged infants and older people.

As a Board Certified Pediatrician for 50 years I have observed with gratitude and pride the the successful progressive effort of Public Health Workers in the last century to reduce neurologic damage and death from many forms of severe disease; by using carefully developed vaccines to help our population create a human barrier which has allowed the most vulnerable of our people move toward the no risk status achieved for SmallPox.

Unfortunately, some poorly informed, if well meaning families have begun to neglect vaccinations; possibly, assuming that risk of disease has gone away. The Oregon Department of Education has long documented vaccinations and physical examination being up to date as a requirement for enrollment and participation in sports; this has allowed safety from low risk of exposure for a small percentage of children not receiving protection because of congenital inability to safely achieve immunity. This should be the only reason for children remaining unprotected.

In Clark County Washington the percentage of unvaccinated due to arbitrary paternal choice has reached a critical level and the reduced "herd immunity" has allowed over sixty children to contract measles with a handful needing hospital admission for severe measles pneumonia and/or encephalitis.

We in Oregon urgently need to ensure that similar cases do not spread to our state. Parents should not be able to skip vaccination due to arbitrary decisions and neglect.

In anticipation of your prompt and decisive reduction of this threat.

With Best Regards,

John E. Yount, MD
FAAP

PeriNatal Research Associates