

February 28, 2019

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

RE: Please support HB 3063!

Dear Representative Salinas:

Hello, my name is Meri Harper, M.D. and I am a pediatrician in Lake Oswego writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

As a general pediatrician, I have witnessed the effects of inadequate vaccination in our community first-hand. I have cared for a small infant who was suffering from the devastating effects of pertussis (whooping cough) and had to be transported emergently from my clinic to the intensive care unit to be intubated as she had apnea (stopped breathing) due to this vaccine-preventable infection. This infant was exposed to pertussis from inadequately immunized older children at her siblings' school. I have also spent countless hours trying to provide evidence-based, accurate information about the safety of vaccines to counter the misinformation and scare tactics that many of my patient families have found on the internet and social media from the anti-vaccination communities. I spend this additional time and energy on education in order to prevent families from opting out of lifesaving vaccines.

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.

Despite what you may have heard, vaccines does 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,

Meri Harper, M.D., F.A.A.P.
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