

To Representatives on the House Health Care Committee:

My name is Sarah Smith. I'm a nurse and a mom in Albany. I am urging you to support HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

My daughter was born with many congenital brain malformations. She was given only a 1% chance to survive 6 months of age. She remarkably just turned 6. She is dependent for all needs, considered nonverbal, but she is social, expressive, understands all that is said to her, and loves life. A common cold for her and other children who are medically frail can send them to the hospital and require ventilator support in a matter of hours to days. Imagine what a communicable illness such as measles could do all because parents are able to opt out of vaccinating their child? My child enjoys school and has just as much right as other children to attend, but be safe while doing so.

I choose to have my child vaccinated, despite all of her medical issues. The alternative is too great a burden for me to bear should she pass away from a communicable & PREVENTABLE illness because I chose not to vaccinate her!

I realize there is an ongoing debate about vaccinations leading to autism... This is inaccurate. There is NO definitive evidence this happens. Furthermore, how is it fair for parents to be given the right to choose to vaccinate knowing it puts others at risk? What about for children like my child.. where is the fairness for them?

It shouldn't even be an option to allow children to attend who have not been vaccinated. Vaccines save lives! My daughter's life! Please support HB 3063!

Thank you,
Sarah Smith RN

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