



February 25th, 2019

To: Oregon State Legislature, House Committee on Health Care

Re: Support for HB 3063

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

We are the physicians of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology at Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Oregon Health & Science University. We are writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

The current measles outbreak in Washington and Oregon is extremely dangerous for our patients. As pediatric nephrologists, we care for children with kidney disease. Many of our patients have a compromised immune system including children who have had a kidney transplant and those with other kidney diseases requiring long-term immune suppressing medications. Many of these children are medically unable to receive vaccination against measles.

When immunosuppressed children contract measles, they may develop a severe and progressive infection leading to diarrhea, pneumonia, encephalitis, hospitalization and potentially death. Our patients and families are terrified to go to school or any public place due to the current outbreak in our region. Our clinic is receiving phone calls every day from families asking how to prevent measles infection in their immunocompromised children. These children are in danger due to the large number of children in our region opting out of vaccination.

This outbreak was preventable. Individuals opting out of vaccinating their children for non-medical reasons are placing our

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patients at an unnecessarily high risk of exposure.

We are asking this committee to protect children's lives, particularly the lives of children who are unable to receive vaccinations due to serious medical problems. Please support HB 3063.

Thank you,



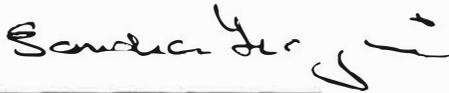
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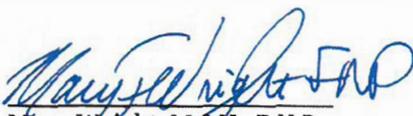
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