

To Representatives on the House Health Care Community:

Hello, my name is Monica Dostal. I am an RN and a family nurse practitioner in Eugene. I urge you to support HB 3063 which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

I was 8 years old when I contracted measles in the late 1950s. I remember spending days in bed in a darkened room for fear of developing measles associated blindness. Many classmates were absent from school with measles that year. One boy never returned. Christopher Morrow died from measles. 60 years later I still remember his name.

A vaccine could have saved his life. I have given vaccines to hundreds of infants and children during my years as a nurse. It is probably the most important and effective preventative health measure I have performed.

Vaccines protect not only the individual, but strengthen the immunity of the whole community to those diseases. I bear the scar of the smallpox vaccine on my left arm. I have never administered a small pox vaccine to anyone. There is no need. Within the generation between my vaccination and my becoming an nurse, smallpox was eliminated from the globe.

By removing the non-medical exemption from school immunization law, Oregon can increase vaccination rates and save lives. Please support HB 3063

Thank you,

Monica Dostal, RN, FNP

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