

From: [Richard Steinberg](#)
To: [HHC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Support for HB3063
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:00:00 AM

DATE: 2/27/19

TO Oregon State Legislature, Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: Support for HB 3063

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Richard Steinberg. I'm a retired urologist and my wife Mary is a retired pediatrician. We are writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

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. We feel that parents who choose not to vaccinate their children are reckless, selfish, and hypocritical. Reckless and selfish for the above reason. Hypocritical because we suspect they themselves were vaccinated.

Parents who choose to not vaccinate their children are obviously putting them at high risk for many other serious and lethal illnesses besides measles. Not vaccinating, in our opinion, is simply another form of child abuse. We have laws requiring children to be strapped into car seats to protect them. Vaccines are equally important in protecting our children.

Despite what you may have heard, vaccines do 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.**
- **Vaccine exemption rates are skyrocketing in Oregon.** Right now, 7.5% of children in kindergarten are unvaccinated, putting us below the community immunity threshold and endangering vulnerable populations.
- **This isn't about removing choice, this is about protecting those who have NO choice.** Individuals with compromised immune systems, infants, cancer survivors, transplant recipients and many others have no protection against certain diseases. As a conscientious society, it is our responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves by getting vaccinated.

- **We are facing a public health emergency today.** Oregon is seeing the impact of high vaccine exemption rates in the Portland area as over 61 individuals have contracted Measles, an extremely contagious disease with devastating effects.

I ask the committee to please protect all of our children, by supporting HB 3063

Thank you

Richard Steinberg M.D. Mary Steinberg M.D.