

February 26, 2019

TO Oregon State Legislature, House Committee on Health Care

Re: Support for HB 3063

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

I am Lisa Reynolds, pediatrician at The Children's Clinic in Portland, 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. The vast majority of sickened children are unvaccinated.

Fortunately, most of the kids with measles will recover fully. I shudder to think of the impact had the polio vaccine been spuriously linked with autism the way the measles vaccine was. We'd have a society of kids in iron lungs and in wheelchairs.

Those who opt out of vaccinating their children could put at risk other vulnerable members of the population, including infants and those with compromised immune systems. Indeed, I have patients who cannot receive live vaccines (like the measles vaccine) because of medical conditions.

I have been practicing pediatrics long enough to remember the days *before* we had vaccines against chicken pox, Haemophilus influenza B, and pneumococcus. In my training, I took care of patients who were **disabled or killed by these diseases that are now preventable through immunization**. It's an incredible medical advance that we can prevent these horrible microbes from injuring and killing our kids. But true prevention requires that over 97% of our kids are vaccinated against these illnesses. Oregon, fortunately, falls far short at 92-93%

HB 3063 will help us get closer to the threshold to provide adequate community immunity to protect ALL Oregonians. Failure to do so will put too many of our children in harm's way.

I ask the committee to protect children's lives. Please support HB 3063.

Thank you,

Lisa Reynolds MD
The Children's Clinic
Oregon Pediatric Society
Portland OR