

**From:** [William Byrne](#)  
**To:** [HHC Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** House Bill 3063  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:31:04 AM

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Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019

To: Oregon State Legislature, Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: House Bill 3063

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

House Bill 3063 is your chance to speak up for the children of Oregon. While I believe that parents have the right to make choices for their children, that right does not include making bad or uniformed choices. We don't allow parents to choose not to use car seats. Immunizing children is a parental responsibility and it is unfortunate that it takes a law to get parents to make the correct choice. But children have rights too. They have the right to be safe from illnesses which cause pain, suffering, disability and even death.

Immunizations have made most of the severe communicable diseases of historical interest only. Parents today have no collective memory of these illnesses, only the fear of the risk of immunizations created by the "voice" of social media. But growing up in the early 50's, I do remember classmates with leg braces from polio. As someone who practiced pediatrics in the 60's, 70's and 80's, I experienced first hand the beds in children's hospitals filled with patients with pertussis, hemophilus influenza, meningococcal and pneumococcal infections. We rarely see these diseases anymore thanks to vaccines. In fact children's hospitals have evolved from caring primarily for patients with severe acute infections to treating children with chronic illnesses and cancer. As part of that evolution we now have significant numbers of children who because of their therapy are at risk, especially for measles and varicella. Immunizing the larger healthy population protects these vulnerable children through the concept of "herd immunity". But immunization rates must be above 95%. They are now at 92%. A small difference that can have huge consequences. Requiring immunizations is now a public health issue as well.

Despite the "voice" of social media, scientists at the CDC, the Institute of Medicine and academic institution throughout the world have found no credible evidence that immunizations cause autism or any other disorder.

Please speak up for the children of Oregon and the public at large by voting "yes" on HB 3063.

Thank-you,

*William J. Byrne, MD*