

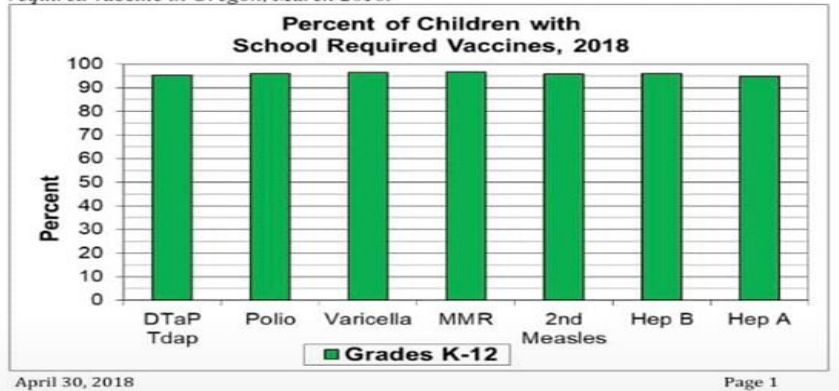
Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the Health Care Committee:

We are writing to you, as concerned parents, regarding HB 3063. We **strongly oppose** this legislation and encourage you to do the same.

HB3063 is UNNECESSARY. There is no measles or “herd immunity” crisis in Oregon.

Per the below chart, published by OHA *less than one year ago*, Oregon children, in grades K-12, are already at, or above, herd immunity thresholds for all required vaccinations:

Figure 1. Percent of children in kindergarten through 12th grade complete for each school-required vaccine in Oregon, March 2018.



Removing all non-medical exemptions, and disallowing alternative vaccine schedules, is simply unnecessary. Oregon’s existing laws are working just fine. This is further evidenced by only FOUR measles outbreaks in Oregon during the Clark County measles incident. Of those cases, three of the four stayed at home and posed NO RISK to the public. The media reported that a contagious person attended a Portland Trailblazers game at the Moda Center, potentially exposing tens of thousands of people to measles. NOT ONE NEW CASE of measles resulted from that reported exposure. <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/measles.aspx>

HB3063 will result in financial losses for the State of Oregon.

Currently, an estimated 31,520 students in Oregon have a non-medical exemption to one or more vaccines. Although the sponsors believe that HB 3063 will cause these students to vaccinate, that is not true. Oregon schools will lose enrollment, as parents will opt to home school. Many dual income families will need to reduce to one income to accommodate home schooling and will seek government assistance, placing more burden on our overburdened system. The State will also lose income taxes as dual income families reduce to one income.

HB3063 will not magically make Oregon children healthier.

On February 20, 2019, a **peer reviewed Mayo Clinic study** was published: *Differential durability of immune responses to measles and mumps following MMR vaccination*. The study will appear in the newest issue of *Vaccine*, which is the official Journal of the Edward Jenner Society and the Japanese Society of Vaccinology. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30797639>

The study examined changes in markers of measles and mumps immunity at two timepoints – 7 years, and 17 years, after the two dose MMR-II series. The study found that antibody titers were fairly low for both mumps and measles due to waning immunity or secondary vaccine failure. The researchers surmised the following:

"These data suggest that *specific immune outcomes may wane at different rates and highlight our currently incomplete understanding of protective immune responses to mumps and measles.*"

Unless the State of Oregon is prepared to require titers testing for every single student entering a school or “children’s facility” in the state, proof of vaccination is NEVER a guarantee of immunity to disease.

HB3063 is illogical and discriminatory.

HB3063 does not require all staff and teachers in Oregon schools to provide proof of their up-to-date vaccination records as a condition of maintaining their employment. Students are not the only ones who can spread illness. If an un/under vaccinated student is considered a “threat” to other students, how does an un/under vaccinated teacher, secretary or janitor, not pose the same “threat”?

Further, under HB3063, students who are missing one Hep A or Hep B shot, will not be allowed to attend school. However, students who are ACTIVELY INFECTED with Hepatitis A or B *are* permitted to attend school. Who poses a bigger risk: a student with an active, contagious infection, or a healthy student who is missing a shot? Why does HB3063 seek to exclude the healthy student?

We implore you to reject HB3063. You only need to look to the State of California to see that this legislation does nothing to reduce disease. For example, California saw more cases of measles in 2018 than they did in 2017.

<https://www.sacbee.com/entertainment/living/health-fitness/article216933070.html>

As Colorado Governor Jared Polis (D), said yesterday, defending Colorado’s non-medical exemptions: **“When the government tries to force parents to do this, it creates distrust in both vaccinations and distrust in the government.”**

PLEASE REJECT HB3063.

Respectfully,
Jeff and Sophia Mekkers