

Providence Health & Services

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February 28, 2019

The Honorable Andrea Salinas
Chair, House Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 3063, Vaccination exemptions

Dear Representative Salinas and members of the committee:

Providence Health & Services supports efforts by the Oregon legislature to address growing public health concerns related to childhood vaccination. Oregon has one of the lowest rates of vaccination in the country; for this reason the importance of protecting children and the broader community cannot be overstated. We ask you to join us in support of House Bill 3063.

In a time when Oregon has invested immense resources into achieving the triple aim objectives and is committed to providing preventative care, based on sound clinical evidence - it is alarming to have a measles outbreak affect nearly 70 people, nearly all are children. With clear medical evidence that harm to children, families and communities occurs primarily when vaccinations are delayed or avoided all together, we must do better.

In addition to the direct individual health benefits vaccinations provide, Providence believes that they are also part of our mutual responsibility to care for one another. This tradition is fundamental to religious and spiritual teaching and a cornerstone of our Mission to care for the poor and vulnerable – in this circumstance that would include young infants and individuals with rare medical conditions who cannot receive vaccinations.

House Bill 3063 takes important steps to educate families and influence behaviors at the pace needed to protect our communities. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to voice our support of House Bill 3063

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Vance". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Lisa Vance
Chief Executive
Providence Health & Services - Oregon