

From: [Marianne Parshley](#)
To: [HHC Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Marianne Parshley](#)
Subject: HB 3063-in support
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:27:33 PM

February 27, 2019
Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Health Care

Re: HB3063

Dear Members of the House Committee on Health Care;

My name is Marianne Parshley. I am a general internal medicine doctor who has been practicing primary care medicine in Portland since 1987. I am writing to you as both a physician and as a family member of one who almost died in childhood of a vaccine preventable disease, polio. I urge you in both my roles to please support HB 3063 and remove non-medical exemptions for childhood vaccinations.

In my years of training and practice, I have seen people die from vaccine preventable illness such as influenza and pneumococcal pneumonia, meningococcal meningitis, and once even tetanus, primarily when they have not been vaccinated.

But since childhood, I have not seen an active case of measles, rubella, mumps or polio. In medical school, we were told they had been mostly eradicated in the U.S. thanks to vaccinations and community immunity.

In other countries, where I have done medical volunteer work, I have seen children and adults living with the consequences of these illness, consequences such as blindness, loss of hearing, brain damage, partial paralysis, and disability, but in the U.S. until recently, we have not seen people living with the consequences of these preventable illnesses except in the old and very old who grew up prior to access to immunizations. Sadly, there has recently been a resurgence of vaccine preventable childhood disease in the U.S. because of a slowly declining number of children getting the vaccines which made their parents' generations (my generation) safe.

Reaching back one generation, I have a more personal story. My mother became ill and almost died of polio at age 12 in the early 1940's before the polio vaccine was developed. Doctors told her she would never walk again, and kept her out of school in quarantine for a year. She was lucky, she survived and by grit learned to walk again. Others she knew were not so fortunate. I vividly remember her telling us those stories as she lined my siblings and I up in our school cafeterias to get, first, the injectable polio vaccine, and later, the oral (sugar cube) polio vaccine. She was not about to let her children suffer as she did. My mom lived most of her adult life, particularly in her last 30 years, significantly disabled by progressive weakness of her legs from post-polio syndrome, but she protected us.

As of this evening, the current measles epidemic in the Portland Vancouver area has a total of 65 patients identified, of which 57 were documented unvaccinated, 6 had no documentation of vaccination and only one had a partial vaccination course of MMR. As you are aware this epidemic started in a smaller community with a high rate of unvaccinated children and rapidly spread to others who were not vaccinated in the larger metro area.

This epidemic was not just isolated to a small group of people but spread due to multiple exposures occurred in schools, in public places and even in clinics and hospitals when children with measles were taken to the doctor. Measles is highly infectious as we have seen, 9 out of 10 unvaccinated people who come in contact with someone who has measles will get ill.

Fortunately, this time we have lucked out, at least so far; around the world 1-2 out of every thousand with measles dies or develops severe disabling neurologic disease.

This outbreak was preventable.

How do we prevent measles, polio and other illnesses? By vaccinating at least 95% of all children in a school community, which builds something called Community Immunity. In Oregon, 7.5% of kindergarten children are not vaccinated. The vaccination rate in schools around the state range from 40% to 100%.

Community Immunity keeps those people who are most vulnerable (infants, children with weak immune systems, or

those who are chronically ill) safe from catching these diseases. They often can NOT get vaccines due to their medical conditions. By removing non-medical exemptions for vaccinations, we protect the health of other students, teachers, staff and the larger community.

Please, I strongly urge you to support HB 3063 and remove the non-medical exemptions for childhood immunizations, and protect our most vulnerable children and our communities.
Vaccines keep our kids safe.

Marianne Parshley, MD FACP