

From: [Melissa Weddle](#)
To: [HHC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Re: HB 3630
Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:03:32 PM

February 27, 2019

TO Oregon State Legislature, Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: Support for HB 3063

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to request your support for HB 3063, which seeks to remove non-medical vaccine exemptions from Oregon law.

In my 31-year career as a pediatrician, I have seen too many children die or experience serious harm from diseases that are preventable. Our ongoing measles outbreak shows that allowing parents to easily opt out of immunizations has resulted in loss of the herd immunity needed to protect children who are unable to be immunized.

This outbreak was preventable. Parents who opt out of vaccinating their children could place other vulnerable members of the population, including infants and those with compromised immune systems, at greater risk for exposure of measles. This week, the mother of an immunosuppressed child told me that she was afraid to send her child to school because of her worry that her child would catch measles. Another mother is keeping her 2- month-old baby (too young for the measles vaccine) at home because of her (understandable) fear of being in public places.

This bill is not about removing choice but is about protecting those who have no choice. Please support this bill to protect infants, individuals of all ages with compromised immune systems, and those who have undergone organ transplants.

I request that the committee support HB 3063 to protect the health and lives of children and other medically vulnerable citizens of our state.

Respectfully,

Melissa Weddle, MD, MPH

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