To Whom It May Concern,

The recent measles outbreak has lead to an 'emergency' resolution (HB 3063) to eliminate all nonmedical exemptions in the state of Oregon.

Currently, 7.5% of kindergarteners file an exemption form, which may mean the child may simply be exempt from one vaccine. Only 2.6% of children ages Kindergarten through grade 12 are 100% unvaccinated.

Per the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations, a child born in 1981 received 8 vaccinations between the ages of 0-18 years, with 5 of these in the first year.

As of 2016, this number grew exponentially, to 56 vaccines between the ages of 0 - 18 years, with 26 of those in the first 12 months. With new vaccines being added to the CDC schedule every few years, there are no long-term, prospective studies to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of the current CDC immunization schedule. It is reasonable a parent would be concerned and work with their pediatrician to ensure their specific child's acute and chronic diseases are taken into consideration when deciding which child receives what vaccines at a particular visit.

For example, six vaccines are recommended at the two-month well visit. Hepatitis B vaccination is recommended prior to a newborn leaving the hospital despite the fact that this child is not at risk unless the mom his hepatitis B positive. Moving this to the 10 year-old vaccine schedule would make more sense since the majority of hepatitis B transmission occurs via IV drug use or sexual activity. My kindergartener should not be precluded from entering kindergarten if she is not immunized given she is not at risk of contracting the disease even if she has a classmate that is Hepatitis B positive.

This is not a public safety issue—with approximately 95% of Oregon school age children in compliance with the CDC immunization schedule. Many parents who elect to file a nonmedical exemption are avoiding a vaccine or two, and are not entirely unvaccinated. This is about informed consent—parents being able to make decisions to space out vaccines instead of getting up to six vaccines in one visit. This is about the freedom to choose what is best for our children after carefully weighing all of the medical evidence and discussing it with our pediatricians.

I urge you to oppose HB 3063. It will not make Oregonians safer or more healthy.

Michelle Niesley, ND, MS Lane County Zip 97405