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DATE February 28, 2019  
TO Oregon State Legislature, Senate Committee on Health Care  
Re: Support for HB 3063

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

I write as a pediatrician and mother from Portland OR, to strongly urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

Vaccines are safe and effective; childhood immunizations are among the most impactful public health successes of modern society. The current measles outbreak in Oregon and Southwest Washington has caused unacceptable morbidity, resource utilization, disruption of educational and healthcare enterprises, and public anxiety. The outbreak was preventable.

Parents who chose not to vaccinate their children put not just their own families at risk; their decision negatively impacts the health, safety, and well-being of members of our community who cannot be vaccinated – young infants and people with compromised immune systems.

It is our responsibility as public leaders to inform policies that protect the community. This bill is not about removing choice; it is about protecting vulnerable members in our community who have no choice.

Vaccine exemptions rates in Oregon are high and rising. This is a public health emergency. I ask the committee to protect children's lives. Please support HB 3063.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ilse Larson".

Ilse Larson, MD, IBCLC, FAAP  
Associate Professor, Pediatrics  
Section Head, Newborn Medicine  
Medical Director, Mother Baby Unit



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