

2/26/19

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

I am Lillian Hazel, a patient at Doernbechers Childrens Hospital from Hillsboro, OR. I am writing this today to urge that you support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove non-medical exemptions from vaccines.

I support this strongly, as I am part of one of the communities affected by the choice to exempt from vaccinating your children. I am technically immunocompromised, as I have been battling a tumor known as LCH, or Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis, for almost 3 years now. I have been taking chemotherapy for this tumor, making my immune system not respond as well to illnesses.

At my school, there has been an outbreak of the flu and whooping cough. My best friend, Scarlett, recently came down with the flu. The day before she came down with the illness, me and her had had a lot of contact, and we talked, played together. After this, I am *constantly* in fear of coming down with the flu and being bedridden for 1-2 weeks. I am not opting to remove your choice on how to live your life, I want for people like me who are at higher risk of illness to have a chance to *live a full life*. These illnesses are no joke, and some people may not be able to get vaccines even if they wanted too. This includes, but is not limited to, people with weakened immune systems, infants, cancer survivors, and people who are undergoing a transplant.

Not only that, there are so many reasons to vaccinate. For one, vaccination *does not* cause autism in children. Scientists at the CDC, the Institute of Medicine and other sources have never found a credible link between the use of vaccines and autism in children.

Even if there *was* evidence for vaccines causing autism, the illnesses vaccines prevent are *much worse*. If you've ever been friends with or heard of ailments such as the measles, chicken pox, influenza, and other diseases such as HPV. The HPV vaccine itself helps prevent many forms of cervical cancer. It is quite literally a **vaccine against cancer**. Now doesn't that sound nice.

In about 2000, the measles were declared eradicated in America. Recently, we have been seeing that because some people did not vaccinate, it was reintroduced and 61 people have already caught the illness in Portland alone. This outbreak could have been prevented and we could have eradicated the measles fully and let it rest *had people who could be vaccinated be vaccinated*.

Not only this, so many people don't vaccinate that herd immunity is deteriorating. In kindergarten, 7.5% of children aren't vaccinating, putting us below a safe threshold and endangering some of the weaker and vulnerable populations mentioned earlier.

In summary, vaccines are helpful and will protect everyone in the collective herd. This is not taking away our freedom to choose, it is meant to help those who cannot choose or are more vulnerable than others. All the outbreaks we have been having are entirely preventable. And finally, this is preventing against very serious diseases such as the measles and HPV.

I ask the committee to protect children's lives. Please support HB 3063.

Thank you,

Lilly H.  
Age 11

