



Wednesday, February 27, 2019

TO Oregon State Legislature, Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: Support for HB 3063

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

I am a pediatrician in Southeast Portland at East Portland Pediatric Clinic. As a pediatrician, parent and concerned citizen, I am writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

HB 3063 not only addresses an important safety issue, is it a timely issue given the current measles outbreak in Oregon and Southwest Washington. This outbreak has resulted in individuals who have needlessly suffered, and has caused fear and confusion for many. Daily I hear from parents who are worried to leave their homes or even come to the pediatric office for their child's preventive visits or illness. These parents have infants who are too young to be immunized, or have medical conditions that put them at high risk for measles and complications.

Unfortunately, this outbreak was both preventable and predictable. As more parents choose to not vaccinate out of fear or misinformation, outbreaks like this will continue to happen.

The vast majority of my patients and their families want the protection afforded by vaccines, are willing to vaccinate themselves and their children to protect their families and others, and value the importance of herd immunity for the protection of society's most vulnerable.



HB 3063 would protect those that need the protection the most and limit spurious exemptions, while still allowing for freedom of choice. When vaccine exemptions are limited, vaccination rates increase. HB 3063 is important for public health and the safety of all Oregonians.

Vaccines are safe. Vaccines are effective. Vaccines save lives.

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

Thank you,

Sharlene Matthieu, MD, FAAP