

February 27, 2019

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Greenlick,

As a healthcare professional, I urge you to support HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

Right now, Oregon and Southwest Washington are seeing firsthand the effects of the current measles outbreak on individuals, families, our caregivers, and our community. The vaccine exemption rates have risen considerably in Oregon in recent years, putting our region below the threshold for the "community immunity" that would otherwise protect very young children and others who cannot receive vaccines for genuine medical reasons.

There is no scientific evidence that vaccines are unsafe; those who opt out of vaccinating their children could place other vulnerable members of the population at greater risk for exposure. Individuals with compromised immune systems, infants, cancer survivors, transplant recipients, and many others have no protection against certain diseases and must rely on community immunity. It is our responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves, especially from diseases that could have been prevented, by getting vaccinated.

I urge you to support the removal of non-medical exemptions from Oregon law in order to re-establish community immunity and save lives.

Sincerely,
Zachary G. Jacobs, MD