



**RANDALL CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**

LEGACY EMANUEL

Randall Children's Nephrology

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February 28, 2018

To: Oregon State Legislature, Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: Support for HB 3063

Honorable Chair and Committee Members:

We are physicians in the Division of Pediatric Nephrology at Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel. To protect our pediatric patients with kidney disease, we are writing to request your support of Oregon HB 3063 which seeks to remove the ability to decline required immunizations for reasons other than a child's medical diagnosis.

As pediatric nephrologists, we care for children with kidney disease. Many of our patients are at increased risk for serious infection due to their compromised immune system. Children who have received a kidney transplant or children that need long-term immune suppressing medications to manage their chronic kidney disease are especially vulnerable. These children are medically unable to receive certain vaccinations including the measles vaccine and yet are among the most susceptible to vaccine preventable illnesses.

The current measles outbreak in Washington and Oregon remains extremely dangerous for our patients. When immunosuppressed children contract measles, they may develop a severe, progressive illness complicated by diarrhea, pneumonia, encephalitis, hospitalization, and potentially even death. Our patients and their families are terrified to attend school or visit public places due to the risk of infection. Our clinic receives phone calls daily from parents asking how to prevent measles infection in their immunocompromised children. Our patients are in danger in part due to the large number of unvaccinated children in our region.

This measles outbreak was preventable. Parents that opt out of routine childhood immunizations for their children for non-medical reasons will continue to place our patients and our community at unnecessarily high risk of exposure.

We ask this committee to protect children's lives, particularly the lives of children who are unable to receive vaccinations due to serious medical problems, to please support HB 3063. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sharon W. Su, MD
Medical Director

Joyce J. Lee, MD
Pediatric Nephrologist

Gia J. Oh, MD
Pediatric Nephrologist