

DATE 02/28/2109

TO Oregon State Legislature, Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: Support for HB 3063

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Ashley Delp Weimer, and I am writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

As an immunosuppressed adult, who was an immunosuppressed child who nearly died from catching whooping cough from an unvaccinated child - I ask from the bottom of my heart, and in support of science, that you consider removing non-medical vaccine exemptions from Oregon law.

Non-medical vaccine exemptions harm not only those who cannot protect themselves, but allow disease to infiltrate our communities. Data shows that not only do unvaccinated communities have higher rates of infected unvaccinated persons, but in vaccinated populations as well. Allowing this practice to continue is unfair to the vast majority of Oregonians who strive to be healthy and prevent disease.

I have dedicated my adult and academic life to the study of vaccines and vaccine exemptions. I have learned many things, namely that the “correlation” between vaccines and autism is inaccurate and fraudulent at best, and that states who ban non-medical exemptions have an astoundingly low rate of vaccine preventable disease (example: Mississippi 2015 - measles outbreak). Prevention is the best medicine.

***An individual does NOT have the legal right to expose others to communicable disease on the basis of religion or personal philosophy.*** This statement is based on extensive case law study, not merely my opinion.

It is unethical to continue to allow others who simply do not want to participate in vaccination based on false science, to continue to threaten and hold the rest of us hostage. I hope my immunosuppressed niece will be better protected than I was.

Thank you,

Ashley D Weimer