

I am, Carol Anderson, retired Pediatric Nurse Practitioner now residing in West Linn, Oregon. I am writing to urge you to support HB3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

My career spanned many years initially employed in in-hospital pediatrics, and then, after attending the OHSU Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program, practiced in outpatient pediatrics in the Portland metropolitan area for almost 30 years.

I have witnessed the most harmful effects that preventable diseases have caused prior to the introduction of many of the vaccines. As an inpatient nurse, I saw a child with leukemia die of sepsis (overwhelming infection) after contracting chicken pox. I saw a child with shortened limbs and deafness as a result of "German measles" (part of the MMR vaccine), and I saw many many children with H.Flu meningitis and meningococcal meningitis with devastating complications, if not death. I also witnessed the emotional and financial toll a gravely ill hospitalized child takes on a family.

I am happy to say that over many years I personally experienced the dramatic decrease, if not extinction, of these illnesses that are now preventable.

The recent outbreak of measles in Oregon and Southwest Washington is preventable. It exemplifies what happens in an under immunized population. The herd immunity is jeopardized. Those who opt out of immunizing their children place other vulnerable members of our society at risk, including infants, our older population and those with compromised immune systems.

The great myth that MMR causes autism has been scientifically proven false over and over again. Vaccines are safe. Vaccines save lives.

I ask the committee to protect children's lives. Please support HB3063.

Respectfully,
Carol Anderson