

From: [Steve Weiss](#)
To: [HHC Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 3063.
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February 28, 2019

House Committee On Health Care
900 Court St. NE,
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chari Salinas, Vice-Chair Hayden, Vice-Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee;

The Oregon Consumer League (OCL) supports HB 3063.

OCL has worked to protect consumers' rights for over 50 years. We work to educate consumers, to promote fair and ethical business practices, and to advance consumer protection laws in the Oregon Legislature. We also believe that the Legislature has a duty to protect consumer health and safety which is why we are encouraging your support for this commonsense bill.

HB 3063 will eliminate the non-medical exemption from school immunization law. Individuals who exempt their children from vaccinations for non-medical reasons place other children at risk of catching and spreading preventable diseases and put our community immunity at risk.

When the threshold of immunity gets too low, all of us become more vulnerable to diseases. Individuals with compromised immune systems, infants and those suffering from harmful conditions have no protection against certain diseases. As a conscientious society, it is our responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves, who have no choice.

California passed SB 277 in 2015 and saw an increase in vaccination rates from 92.8% to 95.1% in two school years. 95% is a critical number because that is threshold for community immunity, the best protection against vaccine-preventable disease.

It is important to note that this bill does not take away a parent's rights to make decisions about their children's healthcare. It only requires that children be vaccinated in order to attend school to protect the health of other students, teachers, staff and our community.

HB 3063 is a sensible bill that will protect all Oregonians and OCL asks for your support.

Thank you.

Steve Weiss
Board President
Oregon Consumer League