

February 26, 2019

To Representatives on the House Health Care Committee:

My name is Pam Hiransomboon-Vogel. I am a family nurse practitioner in Portland. I am writing to support HB 3063, which seeks to improve public health in Oregon by removing non-medical vaccine exemption from school immunization law.

The increasing frequency of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks such as the current measles outbreak in Clark County is simply unacceptable. We are putting the health of individuals in our community at risk when we allow non-medical vaccine exemption in Oregon schools.

In my clinical practice, I provide hospice and palliative care for the seriously ill population and their caregivers. My patient with a compromised immune system should NOT be at risk of exposure to measles just by attending her granddaughter's play at an elementary school in Vancouver. Another patient of mine, her teenage son was exposed to measles during the current Clark County outbreak. In addition to the worries associated with having a terminally ill mother, the son also had to worry about the potential of passing on measles to his sick mother when he developed a cough later that week. Luckily, he was immunized against measles and was later diagnosed with a cold. Herd immunity works and needs to be maintained in order to protect our most vulnerable population.

Vaccine hesitancy is one of the top 10 global health threats in 2019, according to the World Health Organization. By supporting HB 3063, Oregon legislators have the opportunity to protect the health of Oregonians by removing non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon schools and increasing the vaccination rate in our great state.

Please support HB 3063 and protect our communities.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my support for HB 3063.

Pam Hiransomboon-Vogel, DNP, FNP-BC, ACHPN

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