

To Representatives on the House Health Care Committee:

Hello, my name is Nolan Haggard and I am an emergency and vascular access nurse in Portland. I am writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

Everyday I care for the youth, the aging, the immunocompromised such as cancer patients (low immune systems). Many of these people, including newborns, those on chemotherapy, and other immunocompromised situations have no protection against serious, contagious diseases. As a caring community, it is our responsibility to protect those in their youth, the elderly, individuals with compromised immune systems and others who medically cannot protect themselves.

Increased vaccination rates help us protect our entire community and move us closer to herd immunity so we can avoid problems like the current measles outbreak in Oregon and SW Washington, which is negatively affecting individuals, families, our caregivers and our community.

This outbreak was preventable. Those who opt out of vaccinating their children could place other vulnerable members of the population, including infants and those with compromised immune systems, at greater risk for exposure.

Despite what you may have heard, vaccines does not cause autism in children. Scientists at the CDC, the Institute of Medicine and other reputable entities have never found a credible link between the use of vaccines and autism in children. It is a hoax that has dangerously been spread on social media. We rely on science as opposed to anecdotal fairytales.

Vaccines save lives. Please support HB 3063!

Thank you,

Nolan Haggard, RN, CEN, EMT-P

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