

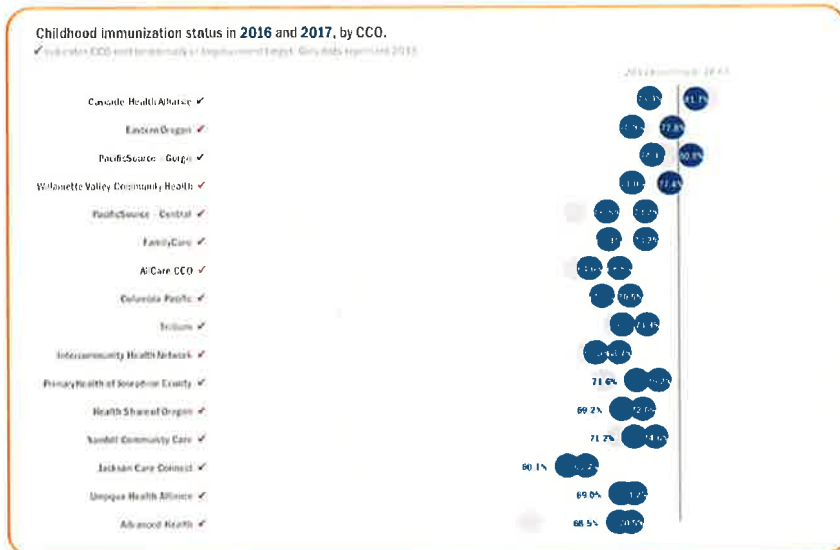
From the desk of
Representative Rachel Prusak
Rachel Prusak

Support Healthy Communities: YES on HB 3063

Coalition for a Healthy Oregon serves over 426,000 Oregon Health Plan recipients, many of whom are some of the most vulnerable among our state’s population. Our service areas stretch from the southern Oregon border, to the mid-Willamette Valley, and as far east as Klamath Falls. It is because we have such far reaching insight into the health of our state’s communities that we urge you to **support House Bill 3063** to strengthen our state’s school vaccination law, to narrow the scope of exemptions so that only those who necessitate a medical exemption will receive one.

Vaccines are the safest and most effective way to protect the population from communicable disease. Without high immunization rates across the state, preventable disease can and will reemerge in Oregon. We have seen our own communities be impacted recently by the growing measles epidemic across the nation, Oregonians must stand up for the most vulnerable among us by working against threats to safe, proven immunization standards so we can continue to avoid and eradicate preventable disease.

 **CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION STATUS**



Herd immunity is the single most important tactic to fighting communicable disease, and is the only tool that keeps newborns, immunocompromised, and the elderly safe. While many may believe that Oregon’s immunization rates are sufficient to protect from disease, that is simply not the case. The embedded chart displays the immunization rates for coordinated care organizations (CCOs) for the years 2015, 2016, and

2017. During that time, the benchmark for CCOs was set at a 78.6% vaccination rate for childhood immunizations, far below the 95% needed for herd immunity for many communicable diseases. The most recent analysis shows that only two CCOs have been able to achieve a childhood vaccination rate above benchmark in the last three years.¹ We firmly believe that this is due to the spread of misinformation that is threatening the health of Oregon children.

HB 3063 will ensure that, in partnership with the state, CCOs have best chance at making a meaningful impact to the health of our communities. **We urge you to vote ‘aye’ for HB 3063** to protect children and those who are unable to vaccinate for medical reasons from the threat of preventable, communicable disease.

¹ Oregon Health System Transformation: CCO Metrics 2017 Final Report. Oregon Health Authority: Office of Health Analytics. Pg.26. 26 June 2018.

CCO 5/6/19