



From the desk of Representative Rachel Prusak

Following hearings in the House Committee on Health Policy and Joint Committee on Ways and Means, and amending the bill to address multiple concerns, House Bill 3063 is the compromise that is before us today.

We know that the success of vaccine programs to protect the public health are predicated on a high percentage of vaccination. And we accept that the science demonstrates multiple benefits to vaccination for individuals as well as the public.

Individually, vaccines protect children from common childhood diseases that were once harmful and sometimes fatal to children. Following the evidence-based vaccine schedule, protects children from these diseases. Because our society has lived nearly free from most of these diseases for nearly 2 generations, we forgot the danger. The recent spread of measles has reminded us of the importance of immunization. HB 3063 will ensure that we are doing all we can to combat the resurgence and spread of preventable diseases.

Vaccines protect the public by assuring a critical mass of immunity in any given setting. When we look at the current measles outbreak in Clark county, a well vaccinated population would have resulted in no spread of the disease. Children who cannot receive vaccines for either innate immunological compromise or medication induced compromise, are assured of minimal exposure by the high percentage of immunized peers. Newborns are especially vulnerable, as well, because they have undeveloped immune systems and cannot fight disease. Widespread immunization protects these vulnerable populations.

As a State, one of our most sacred charges is to promote public health and safety. Adopting HB 3063 will demonstrate our commitment to protecting every Oregonian from preventable diseases, especially those who are most vulnerable. Passage of House Bill 3063 will honor that sacred trust.

Please Vote Yes to HB 3063.

cc 5/6/19