

Dear State Legislators,

I am a mother of two young school age children and I am writing to share my support for House Bill 3063. For me, the importance of vaccines and their critical role in public health are deeply personal.

My mother grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan and was a child when polio ravaged the Ann Arbor area. Shortly before the polio vaccine became available she and many of her neighbors contracted polio. She was lucky and had a relatively mild case (she has developed polio scoliosis in her back and has some other long-term physical effects of the disease relating to alignment of some bones that have probably contributed to arthritis and other forms of discomfort. But she's otherwise fine.) Her neighbors across the street was not as lucky and two of them ended up in an iron lung. Some died. If the polio vaccine had been available this could have been avoided. Both of my children have received all of the prescribed childhood vaccines. My husband and I are both current on our vaccines as well.

I am deeply concerned by the recent measles outbreak in Washington, an outbreak that could have been avoided. I fully support House Bill 3063 and believe that passing it will take important steps to improve public health in Oregon, make it safer, save needless medical care expenses, and help protect our community members who for clear and valid medical reasons cannot be vaccinated. For friends of mine who are parents of an immunocompromised child, or of a child too young to receive the vaccine, the past few months have needlessly stressful and concerning.

Please pass House Bill 3063 and help make Oregon safer and healthier for all of our residents.

Thank you,
Ann Carney
Eugene, Oregon