

Dear House Health Care Committee Members:

As an Oregon resident I am writing to urge your support of HB 3063, this legislative session.

Throughout the last few years, there has been a recent resurgence in measles outbreaks throughout the United States; this shows that vaccine preventable infections still pose a public health issue for a nation. The recent ongoing outbreak of measles in Clark County, WA also indicates that this issue does not exclude us here in the P.N.W, and should be taken seriously. Furthermore when studying the details of these outbreaks from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it becomes clear that the majority of the cases in these outbreaks are originating from individuals who were either unimmunized for the virus, or who could not provide documentation of vaccinations.

Now while I understand that a small percentage of individuals are concerned about reports of medical conditions caused by vaccines, it is important to remember that several researchers, health officials, and health agencies have supported the use of vaccines and have shown that they are not associated with health conditions such as autism or SIDS (please see citations below).

Along with providing protection from diseases such as measles, vaccines have secondary benefits ranging from the protection of those individuals who cannot receive vaccinations for medical reasons through a concept known as community immunity to preserving funding for public health agencies that would be used in the event of a potential outbreak. As noted in a recent article found on [oregonlive.com](http://oregonlive.com), the recent measles outbreak in Clark County has surpassed 1 million dollars (see link below). If such an outbreak would occur within our state, it stands to reason that the cost associated with controlling the spread of the disease would divert funding away from other public health needs within our state.

In conclusion, I want to thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and I ask you to please support HB3063 so we can better ensure the public health of all Oregonians.

Benjamin Ashraf, MPH  
Albany, resident

Citations:

1) Jain A, Marshall J, Buikema A, Bancroft T, Kelly JP, Newschaffer CJ. Autism Occurrence by MMR Vaccine Status Among US Children With Older Siblings With and Without Autism. *JAMA*. 2015;313(15):1534–1540. doi:10.1001/jama.2015.3077

2) M.M.T. Vennemann, T. Butterfaß-Bahloul, G. Jorch, B. Brinkmann, M. Findeisen, C. Sauerland, T. Bajanowski, E.A. Mitchell, Sudden infant death syndrome: No increased risk after immunisation, *Vaccine*, 2007;25(2):336 - 340.

Link:

<https://www.oregonlive.com/health/2019/02/cost-of-washington-measles-outbreak-tops-1m.html>