

Date: 3/01/19

To: The Honorable Andrea Salinas, Chair; The Honorable Hayden, Vice-Chair; The Honorable Nosse, Vice-Chair; Members of the House Health Care Committee

From: Margaret Robinson MPH, Portland, OR

RE: Please support HB 3063

Chair Salinas, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Nosse, and members of the House Health Care Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony. I live in NE Portland and I am writing to ask you to support HB 3063, the bill that removes ability of parent to decline required immunizations on behalf of a child for reason other than child's indicated medical diagnosis.

I am a public health professional. I have recently retired from working at Multnomah County Health Department for eighteen years where I administered a federal grant for people living with HIV. The people I served are immunocompromised and for this reason at greater risk of contracting other infectious diseases, including those against which vaccinations are available.

In addition, I have recent personal history of assisting someone who has undergone stem cell replacement. Again, she is immunocompromised and therefore at risk from others who refuse to be vaccinated. Yet, current exemptions allow her to be placed in danger from simply being in public spaces.

Requiring vaccinations of everyone who is medically able to be vaccinated is the right thing to do. It is neither fair nor just to put individuals at risk who are already dealing with serious health issues. Other's fears and philosophical disagreements with vaccinations should not be held in greater regard than the very real medical needs of the population as a whole, including those who are medically unable to be vaccinated. We live in a **community** and the role of **public health** is to protect **everyone** in the public. Unless medically necessary, no one should be able to opt out.

I urge you to support this bill and protect our entire community.

Thank you,

Margaret Robinson