

From: [Mary Wunderle-McIntosh](#)
To: [HHC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Please support HB 3063
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019 3:14:42 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

DATE February 28, 2019
TO Oregon State Legislature, Senate Committee on Health Care
Re: Support for HB 3063

Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

I am Mary Wunderle-McIntosh, MD, a family physician from Lebanon Oregon, writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

As I am sure you're aware, Oregon and Southwest Washington are currently seeing first-hand the effects of a measles outbreak on individuals, families, our caregivers and our community.

This outbreak was preventable and can be attributed to failure to vaccinate and adequately protect children and community members. Those who opt out of vaccinating their children could (and do) place other vulnerable members of the population, including infants and those with compromised immune systems, at greater risk for exposure.

Despite what you may have heard, vaccination do not cause autism in children. Scientists at the CDC, the Institute of Medicine and other reputable entities have never found a credible link between the use of vaccines and autism in children.

- **Vaccines save lives.**
- In my personal experience as a physician, I have witnessed the severe illness caused by pertussis in an unvaccinated child.
- As a mother to a child with chronic illness, I have dealt with the frustration and fear that my child could be harmed by a vaccine preventable illness, simply because our law allows parents to refuse vaccines for non-medical reasons and still have access to send their children to public schools where they put vulnerable children such as my son at risk.
- **Vaccine exemption rates are skyrocketing in Oregon.** Right now, 7.5% of children in kindergarten are unvaccinated, putting us below the community immunity threshold and endangering vulnerable populations.
- **This isn't about removing choice, this is about protecting those who have NO choice.** Individuals with compromised immune systems, infants, cancer survivors, transplant recipients and many others have no protection against certain diseases. As a conscientious society, it is our responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves by getting vaccinated.
- **We are facing a public health emergency today.** Oregon is seeing the impact of high vaccine exemption rates in the Portland area as over 61 individuals have contracted Measles, an extremely contagious disease with devastating effects.

I ask the committee to protect children's lives. Please support HB 3063.

Thank you,

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