

My name is Toy Lim. I am a Family Nurse Practitioner at the OHSU Richmond Clinic, a federally qualified community health center providing care to primarily Medicaid and Medicare patients. I am writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

In 2018, I traveled to work in refugee camps in Bangladesh. During my time in the camps, there was an epidemic of measles and diphtheria spreading through the population. While health care providers worked to stabilize those affected with the disease, a larger cohort of health care workers responded by immunizing over 200,000 children under that age of 5 against measles and diphtheria. Within 2 months of the vaccination campaign, enough of the populations in the camps were immunized against the diseases that there was a significant drop in the outbreaks of the diseases. Within 5 months of the campaign, there were only small scattered incidence of the disease. The lessons learned from this experience is that immunizations work and they are a powerful way to insure the health of communities.

The recent outbreak of measles in Oregon and SW Washington is another example of how rapidly disease can spread when a significant population in a community is not immunized. This resulted in devastating health outcomes to the most medically fragile population. These outbreaks are preventable. A single dose of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine is 93% effective against measles! A second dose infers 97% immunity.

Vaccines not only protect the individuals who get the immunization, it also protects those in the community who cannot be immunized such as infants before age 1 and those who have compromised immune system or pregnant women. According to the CDC, 95% of the total population needs to be immunized against measles in order to eliminate the spread of the disease. In other words, if enough of the population is immunized, we can virtually eliminate the spread of the disease. Currently 7.5% of kindergartener in Oregon are unvaccinated. This is well below the threshold of 95% needed to prevent an epidemic of the disease.

The MMR vaccine is extremely safe. According to the World Health Organization, the risk of an adverse reaction to the vaccine is 1 in 1 million dose. In contrast according to the CDC, 1-

2 people per 1,000 people who contract measles will die from the disease. Despite what you may have heard, vaccines does 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 work. Vaccines save lives. Vaccines are safe. Please support HB 3063!

Thank you,

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