

To Representatives on the House Health Care Committee:

My name is Erika Jones, and I am a Registered Nurse in Eugene, Oregon. I urge you to support HB 3063 which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law. We need to protect our most vulnerable populations, pregnant women, children too young to get vaccinated, cancer patients and/or stem cell transplant recipients, and others who are unable to get vaccinated for medical reasons. It is incredibly selfish and dangerous that we allow parents to not vaccinate their children for unnecessary reasons, putting others' lives at risk because they are misinformed, uneducated, or just plain don't care about the people in our communities who depend on them to keep their children from spreading completely preventable diseases. This is a serious public health crisis. Did you know that if a pregnant woman is exposed to the measles virus, it can kill her unborn fetus? Imagine bringing your newborn baby to their first well-baby exam, and they are inadvertently exposed to measles, succumb to the disease, and die before their 1st birthday because they were too young to be vaccinated. These diseases should have been (and in many cases were) eradicated long ago due to vaccines. This is not about having "free will" to make healthcare decisions for our children; this is about being a human member of our community and society, which means not spreading completely preventable life threatening contagious diseases because of personal beliefs that go completely against scientific proof/evidence.

By eliminating the non-medical exemption from school immunization law, Oregon can increase vaccination rates and literally save lives.

This bill does not take away a parent's rights to choose to forego vaccination - it requires that children be vaccinated against measles in order to attend school. That way, the rest of us educated, informed, and compassionate members of society can raise children in schools where we don't have to worry about them catching a lethal disease because their classmates' parents decided to selfishly forego immunization.

Please support HB 3063. I urge you to think of the children, and the many lives that will be saved as a result of this bill passing.

Thank you kindly,

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