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February 28, 2019

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: Please support HB 3063!

Dear Senator Girod:

Hello, my name is Jessica Lehrfeld and I am a family medicine physician with Legacy Medical Group in Silverton OR, writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

The harm done by these completely preventable diseases can be irreparable. Playing Russian Roulette to see who gets a minor illness versus lifelong debility or death is not one I ever want to see as a doctor.

As an Oregonian, I've spend my whole life surrounded by people who've been misled to believe that vaccines are unsafe and cause a host of illnesses, despite having unequivocally been proven wrong. While we all have strong feelings about personal liberties and choices, we've also come to some very basic agreements regarding our obligations to our communities. Once our personal choices start hurting others, they're no longer personal. We used to not regulate drinking and driving. It's a person's choice to drink if they wish. But it's not their right to put others in harm's way by getting behind the wheel. Community Immunity is the same- if a person chooses to put their family in harm's way by declining to vaccinate, they should not be bringing their family into public spaces like schools.

Right now, Oregon and Southwest Washington are seeing first-hand the effects of the current measles outbreak on individuals, families, our caregivers and our community.

This outbreak was preventable. Those who opt out of vaccinating their children could 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, 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 save lives. Please support HB 3063!

Thank you,

Jessica Lehrfeld, DO
Board Certified Family Medicine