

To Senator Ginny Burdick and Representative Jennifer Williamson,

Hello, my name is Dr. Christine Lin Johnson and I am a physician in cancer medicine as well as blood conditions in the field of medical oncology and hematology at the Providence Cancer Institute St. Vincent Hospital location in Portland writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

I personally take care of many patients with blood cancers and blood disorders who by the nature of their disease as well as the immune suppressing treatments involving chemotherapy and targeted therapies have very vulnerable immune systems. With the recent outbreak of measles in Clark and Multnomah counties I have been concerned about the potential exposures of my chronically immunosuppressed patients. For my patients who have recently undergone blood stem cell transplants and have extremely immature immune systems that take time to reconstitute, I have needed to counsel them to limit their contact of potential sick contacts and spending time in public spaces as they are unable to begin all of revaccinations after their transplants.

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 patients with cancer and blood disorders as well as infants 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,
Christine Lin Johnson, MD

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