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To Representatives on the House Health Care Committee:

My name is Jeremy Brodhead, and I am a family nurse practitioner in Bend Oregon. I am seeing an alarming number of patients declining all vaccines, without even having to speak to a medical provider to make this decision or get medical expertise on the subject.

Please support HB 3063.

Oregon faces a serious public health crisis - 7.5% of children in kindergarten are unvaccinated.

Vaccination protects children and those at significant risk of infection – this includes babies too young to be vaccinated and individuals with medical conditions that preclude vaccination.

Community immunity is at risk – vaccinated children are a crucial part of the entire community's defense against vaccine-preventable diseases, Oregon's current vaccination rates make all of us more vulnerable to disease.

Vaccines save lives - vaccines offer the best known protection against a number of devastating illnesses.

No credible scientific study has ever found a link between autism and vaccines.

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

This bill DOES NOT take away a parent's rights to make decisions about their children's healthcare - it only requires that children be vaccinated against measles in order to attend school to protect the health of other students, teachers, staff and our community.

Example letter:

To Representatives on the House Health Care Committee:

I am writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

Everyday I care for newborns who have no protection against serious, contagious diseases.

As a caring community, it is our responsibility to protect newborn children, individuals with compromised immune systems and others who medically cannot protect themselves.

Increased vaccination rates help us protect our entire community and move us closer to herd immunity so we can avoid problems like the current measles outbreak in Oregon and SW Washington, which is negatively affecting 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!

Jeremy Brodhead

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