

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 Wagner and Representative Salinas,

My name is Julie Fiene-Yeager and I am a Pediatrician at The Children's Clinic in Portland. I am writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

In my 22 years of practice as a Pediatrician, I have seen many cases of vaccine-preventable disease in children that have resulted in dire consequences. My very first patient as an intern at Children's Hospital Los Angeles was a 15-month-old boy with Hemophilous Influenza meningitis who ultimately was left with permanent cognitive deficits (brain damage) and deafness from his illness. This disease is now preventable with the H. Flu vaccine. I took care of young patients in the Pediatric ICU with measles pneumonia and with severe sepsis from a skin infection that developed as a result of chicken pox. I had a six-week old patient with whooping cough, too young for the pertussis vaccine, who spent months in the hospital struggling to breathe and unable to feed due to his unrelenting severe cough. My own grandmother had three young siblings who all died within a month of each other from diphtheria, just a year before the vaccine was developed in 1923.

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 put other vulnerable members of the population, including infants and those with compromised immune systems, at greater risk for these preventable infections. This is unacceptable in my opinion.

Despite what you may have heard, vaccines do 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,

Julie A. Fiene-Yeager, MD