



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Chair Salinas and Members of the House Committee On Health Care,

Benton County supports and urges passage of HB 3063.

The development and availability of vaccines is recognized as among the 10 most important public health accomplishments of the 20th century. Vaccines prevent many life threatening diseases, including some forms of cancer, and have been a standard societal practice for decades.

Vaccines keep our communities healthy, and protect some of the most vulnerable members of our society, including the elderly and children with compromised immune systems or who are too young to be vaccinated.

Delaying or foregoing vaccination leaves individual children and our entire society at risk for diseases that can be easily and inexpensively prevented.


The risks associated with vaccine-preventable illnesses include:

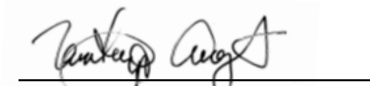
- Preventable loss of school attendance and educational progress for those who must be excluded from schools during outbreaks.
- Uncontrolled transmission of preventable diseases to other non-vaccinated children in schools and community settings.
- Risk of life-threatening infection for those who are too young, are immune-compromised, or who have other genuine medical contraindications.
- Medical and insurance costs for diagnosis, medication, and treatment of preventable illnesses.

Vaccines are safe. Vaccines are effective. Vaccines save lives.

To protect the health and safety of Benton County and everyone in Oregon, we urge passage of HB 3063.


Annabelle Jaramillo


Pat Malone


Xanthippe Augerot