



**Testimony Before the
House Health Care Committee regarding HB 3063
Presented by Dr. Robert Dannenhoffer
on behalf of the Oregon Medical Association
February 28, 2019**

For the record, my name is Dr. Robert Dannenhoffer. I have been a pediatrician since 1980 and have practiced in Roseburg for 30 years. I also serve as the Douglas County Health Officer. Immunizations are one of the most important advances in pediatrics. In my professional lifetime, we have seen a near total eradication of measles, congenital rubella, Hib meningitis and Rotavirus diarrhea, entirely due to vaccinations for these diseases. But these diseases are still lurking and can quickly return when vaccine rates drop, as we have seen from the recent measles outbreak.

Immunizations have been shown to be safe and effective. There are excellent long-term studies that have shown no link to autism or other developmental problems. In my career, I have given over 100,000 immunizations with no long-term ill effects, but these immunizations have saved countless lives, hospitalizations and much human suffering. The vaccines that will be required under this bill are all well established and have decades of safety experience- over 50 years for the measles vaccine.

This bill does not eliminate medical exemptions for those few students who require a medical exemption. I review each and every medical exemption in our county very carefully and allow each of the appropriate exemptions.

Immunization rates need to stay high to protect those who cannot be immunized, including infants less than a year of age and those who have medical exemptions including those who have had transplants. I have two youngsters in my practice who have had heart transplants and they will be at extraordinary risk if they are exposed at school or day care.

I strongly support passage of this bill.

The Oregon Medical Association serves and supports over 8,200 physicians, physician assistants and student members in their efforts to improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.