

To Representatives on the House Healthcare Committee,

Thank you so much for all you do! I am a registered nurse in Bend, Oregon working in forensics and mental health. I came to Oregon from Austin, Texas two years ago for my husband to begin working in law enforcement here.

I am writing to ask you to please support HB 3063. This bill seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

In my time as a nurse and a mother I have come across many, many perspectives on vaccinations. While I do think there is work to be done on ensuring the safest possible delivery of vaccinations, I absolutely support full vaccination both personally and professionally. During the recent measles outbreak in Bend, a friend thought that their little girl was exposed to measles. The little girl suffered from infantile seizures and was medically unable to receive the normal vaccine schedule. Her innocent attendance of a birthday party put her at risk of exposure to a dangerous, preventable illness because another family had chosen not to vaccinate. Each of the cases of measles in Oregon was confirmed to occur in an unvaccinated child. Unfortunately, I have met many families who choose not to vaccinate based on ignorance or inaccurate information. The rates of non-vaccinated children in Oregon are climbing, recently noted to be 7.5% of children in kindergarten. The more normal it is not to vaccinate, the more ignorant families may choose this dangerous option unwittingly.

The few families I know that have chosen not to vaccinate for well researched, well founded reasons have also chosen not to put their child in public school. I personally think that if a family does not vaccinate, they could put other children at risk, and it makes sense that they should therefore need to find alternative schooling options to keep the community as healthy as possible.

Please support HB 3063. This will lead to a safer community and keep dangerous diseases eradicated. Vaccines changed America; it is an incredible blessing to think my children will

not suffer or die from measles, pertussis or other diseases that used to kill children commonly in high numbers!

Thank you so much for your time.

Faith Koehler, RN, SANE

Faith Koehler

faithelizabethkoehler@gmail.com

2083 NE Mistletoe Ct

Bend, Oregon 97701