

To Representatives on the House Health Care Committee:

Hello, my name is Christen Smith and I am a mother and a medical nurse in Eugene. I am writing to urge your support of HB 3063, which seeks to remove the non-medical vaccine exemption from Oregon law.

I provide care to the elderly population. They have a weakened immune system and are vulnerable to illness that can be prevented with vaccines. I see how exposure to illness can be devastating and fatal.

As a mother, I choose to immunize my children both to protect them and to protect the community we live in. It concerns me that other children could possibly expose them to diseases that are preventable with vaccines.

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, the elderly, 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!

Thank you,

Christen Smith, RN

Christen Smith

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