

Submitter: Matt Morrow

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB1529

There are no parameters set for what a disease outbreak means or what condition would warrant a matter of “public health importance.” This could mean we would all be required to mask every flu season or kids would be required to start virtual learning if someone in their school contracts a vaccine preventable disease such as the chicken pox. This is far too much power for one person to have.

The summary of the bill is deceptive by claiming the bill is something it is not.

The bill also does not define what is considered a state of emergency, how long the emergency can last, or give anyone the ability to check the power of the OHA director (currently Patrick Allen). The public health director of the OHA is not an elected position. There is no way we the people could institute change through our legal system if this bill becomes law.

I don't want an unelected official to have unchecked power over Oregonians, and I do not want SB 1529 A-Engrossed to pass.