

Submitter: Melissa Fisher
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1030

Dear Senator Patterson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

I am writing to ask for your support of SB1030.

I work in healthcare and was one of the site leads for Oregon's largest COVID-19 vaccination sites at the Convention Center. I support annual vaccination events for one of our states largest healthcare organizations and I know how challenging it is for our older populations to get in to get their annual flu, RSV, and COVID vaccinations.

In recent years, experiences with LTCs throughout the state revealed a shocking concern; many residential care facilities throughout Oregon refuse to allow an on site influenza vaccination clinic for consenting residents when offered by a local vaccination provider at no cost to the facility.

Frequent respiratory and flu outbreaks in LTCs significantly impact quality of life for residents, and remove families and friends from being able to visit. This happens every year and this year in particular has been bad. My mom's facility was locked down twice, 2-3 weeks each occurrence.

Facilities are simply not able to manage the transportation needs of all residents to leave for vaccinations and an on site option should be made available to all. And not everyone has family members able to drive or access to personal transportation.

The risk of death by respiratory illness is incredibly high for the elderly, flooding our hospitals, and that makes it even more important to make this space available to our most immunocompromised population. Prevention is the solution - and enabling vaccinations on site, keeping residents health.

Please ensure that on site vaccination space is made available to all people in long term care.

Thank you.