



March 11, 2025

SB 1030 Support

Chair Patterson and members of the committee: my name is Sarah Lochner here on behalf of the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials, representing the 33 local public health departments across the state.

We are here in support of SB 1030. Local Public Health could tell you many stories about the spread of diseases in congregate living settings like residential care facilities. Many Local Public Health departments already do proactive outreach to long term care facilities and other residential care facilities to offer and encourage vaccination clinics. They have also found that the facilities that decline the offer to do a vaccination clinic are the ones that end up with outbreaks – costly outbreaks – to both the facility and to LPH.

We do have a couple of suggestions for improving the bill.

1. We recommend adding RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) vaccine – when supplies permit – to the list – noting that last year, LPH had difficulty accessing doses of the Covid vaccines as well. We would support Sen. Reynold's suggestion as well for the CDC list of age-appropriate vaccines.
2. We also recommend making the vaccines available to facility staff as well as residents. Often it is the staff that brings the virus into the facility.
3. And we recommend that this bill cover all Long Term Care facilities, for the aforementioned reasons. It's just good public policy.

I will flag that many local public health departments don't currently have the resources to administer the clinics, so we would be interested in clarifying who is going to pay for these clinics and vaccines. The provider likely needs to be contracted with Medicare in order to bill for the drugs and service.

That said, we still believe in the importance of this bill and the protective health benefits of regular vaccination, especially for folks living in congregate settings, and we hope to find a way forward on this important legislation.

Thank you.

