

Submitter: Ana Kathrein  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1030

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Oregon Senate Bill 1030. I strongly oppose this bill due to concerns over government overreach, financial burden on care facilities, and the potential undue influence on vulnerable residents.

SB 1030 mandates that residential care facilities provide on-site vaccine clinics for Influenza, COVID-19, and Pneumonia. While access to vaccines is important, requiring facilities to host and administer these clinics imposes a regulatory burden that fails to consider the specific needs and beliefs of these institutions and their residents. Private care facilities should have the autonomy to decide how they approach healthcare services for their residents rather than being subjected to a statewide mandate.

This legislation would force facilities to bear the costs of setting up and maintaining vaccine clinics, regardless of whether they believe it is the best approach for their residents. Many residential care facilities operate on limited budgets, and adding yet another financial obligation could strain resources that should be allocated toward direct care and essential services for residents. The bill does not provide adequate funding to offset these costs, leaving facilities with an unfunded mandate that could lead to higher costs for residents or reduced quality of care in other areas.

By mandating vaccine clinics within private care facilities, the government is overstepping its bounds and infringing on the rights of these institutions to determine their own healthcare policies. Healthcare decisions should remain in the hands of facility administrators, medical professionals, residents, and their families—not dictated by the state. This bill sets a dangerous precedent for government intervention in private healthcare settings, removing choice from those who are directly impacted.

Elderly and vulnerable residents in care facilities may feel pressured to receive vaccines simply because they are made readily available in their living environment. Not all residents have the same healthcare needs, and some may have medical, religious, or personal reasons to decline vaccination. By mandating these clinics, the bill could inadvertently lead to undue influence on residents who may not be fully informed or confident in making their own healthcare decisions.

While access to vaccines is okay, SB 1030 takes the wrong approach by imposing financial burdens, overreaching into private facility operations, and potentially coercing vulnerable individuals into medical decisions. I urge the committee to reject this bill and instead explore alternative solutions that respect individual choice, facility autonomy, and responsible healthcare access.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ana Kathrein  
Yamhill County Resident