

3/11/2025

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

I am Cynthia M. D'Angiolillo, an Oregon Registered Nurse for over 40 years, the last 26 years in the practice of public health, recently retired.

I am writing today in support of SB 42 and amendment -1, to fund Oregon's Vaccine Access Program (VAP).

The focus of my practice in the public health immunization program was to serve as a safety net clinic and assure access to vaccinations for underserved Oregonians. The majority of my patients were those whose economic circumstances left them without health insurance and unable to pay out of pocket for vaccinations.

The VAP is essential for people in our community. Without this program, there is no way to provide for the underserved.

VAP provides vaccines at no upfront cost to the vaccination provider.

When we administer a vaccine to an insured person, we bill the insurance, and the state in turn bills us. Thereby VAP vaccine cost is reimbursed to the state program when used for an insured person.

When we administer VAP vaccine to an uninsured client eligible for federal and state vaccine programs, those programs cover the cost and reimburse Oregon's VAP program.

Without the funding proposed in SB 42-1, Oregon will be forced to reduce the number of VAP clinics by 65-70%. This means approximately 200 of our current clinics served by the VAP program will lose access to the program. This would be a terrible situation for families in economic distress and without health insurance who rely on VAP access at their primary care clinic.

Vaccine costs are high, with the recommended vaccinations for an infant costing approximately \$367 per visit at each of their well-child visits at 2, 4, and 6 months.

Without access to VAP vaccines, people may go without these lifesaving vaccinations.

Over the course of my 40-year career in nursing I have seen babies in respiratory distress from pertussis, a young child die of chicken pox, children with amputations from haemophilus and meningococcal infections, children deaf, blind and cognitively impaired from exposure to rubella in utero, healthy persons die of influenza, people with agonizing muscle spasms causing bone fractures due to tetanus – all of these vaccine preventable.

SB 42 -1 proposed \$5 million allocation for vaccine purchases and \$1.8 million for program administration is essential to maintain our public health services.

I urge you to support SB 42 and the -1 amendment.

Sincerely,

Cynthia M. D'Angiolillo RN