

Submitter: Amanda Apple
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB42
03/14/2025

Senate Committee On Health Care
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amanda and I am a parent writing to you today in support of Senate Bill 42 and the -1 amendment. Vaccines prevent mass outbreaks, eradicate diseases, and ultimately save lives. But right now, access to vaccines is at risk for many across our state.

I care deeply about access to vaccines in Oregon because we know from history and what is happening now in Texas and other states the consequences of when we don't vaccinate as a community. We do our part to help each other, and we can't help protect each other when vaccines are being cut federally. When Medicaid and Medicare get gutted, I worry how we will protect the children, elderly, and disabled in our communities who are most at risk. We know those are not the only factors that can increase risk, but most of the population falls into those 3 very obvious categories. This won't be a problem for just the poor. We are a connected society. Your friends, family, and children will all be at risk as well. We are stronger together or weaker together. Let's choose the first, please.

Oregon's Vaccine Access Program (VAP) is absolutely critical to the health of Oregonians, and right now it is at risk of being significantly underfunded. This kind of massive reduction – currently estimated to be 65-70% of enrolled clinics – will threaten vaccine access statewide and particularly for low-income populations, rural communities, and historically marginalized groups.

This potential funding reduction comes at the worst possible time. Last year, our communities saw the highest number of measles cases in 30 years and the largest pertussis outbreak in the last 50 years with over 1,000 cases. Meanwhile, childhood immunization rates are at the lowest we've seen in Oregon since 2018.

Please take action to protect the health of Oregonians.

Vote yes on Senate Bill 42 and the -1 amendment.

Thank you,

Amanda Apple