

DATE: March 15, 2025

TO: Senator Deb Patterson, Chair; Senator Cedric Hayden, Vice-Chair;  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Alanna Braun, MD, FAAP  
Oregon Pediatric Society Board Member

SUBJECT: Support for SB 42-1, Funding the Vaccine Access Program

For the record, my name is Alanna Braun, MD. I am a pediatrician in Portland and a member of the board of the Oregon Pediatric Society, the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Oregon Pediatric Society strongly supports SB 42-1, which provides crucial funding for the state's Vaccine Access Program.

As a member of the Oregon Health Authority's Vaccine Finance committee for the last year, I have learned how fragile and at-risk our existing infrastructure is to provide vaccines to Oregonians who want them. In my practice as a primary care pediatrician, I frequently come across parents who are desperate to access preventive vaccines for themselves and their children, and are unable to find reliable ways to get them – and this is in Portland. We know that this situation is far worse in Oregon's rural communities. If we do not adequately fund the Vaccine Access Program, access to vaccines will only worsen.

In the face of rising cases of vaccine-preventable diseases like whooping cough and measles, the worst thing we can do for Oregonians is to do nothing. If we do not pass this bill and fund our Vaccine Access Program, we will face large cuts (65-70%) in our ability to get vaccines into these communities, and fewer people will be able to get needed vaccines to protect themselves from illness. We are taking away Oregonians' right to choose and access healthcare if we do not fund this program – those who want vaccines will not be able to get them. This is a tremendous disservice to our state, and to Oregonians who rely on community immunity to protect them, like infants, pregnant people, and those who are medically unable to be vaccinated.

This relatively small financial ask (\$1.8 million for program administration, and \$5 million for vaccine purchases that would self-renew) would save us much more money in public health costs, and buy us time to work on a more sustainable long-term solution for our state. In addition, it is important to note that the \$5 million for vaccines **is truly a one-time investment**.

As pediatricians, we know that the best treatment is primary prevention, and keeping our families and communities healthy starts with ensuring their ability to access



essential preventive medical care like immunizations. The Oregon Pediatric Society and I urge you to support SB 42 and the -1 amendment to protect access to vital immunization services for Oregonians. Please reach out to myself or other members of the Oregon Pediatric Society if you have any questions about childhood vaccines or this bill. Thank you for your consideration.