



March 25, 2025

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Betsy Boyd-Flynn and I am the Executive Director and CEO for the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians. I am writing today in strong support of the -1 amendment to SB 42 and the critical funding it will provide for Oregon's Vaccine Access Program (VAP).

Our organization represents over 1,800 individuals at all stages of their professional journey from medical school through active practice and into retirement. Family physicians are the backbone of Oregon's primary care workforce. Our organization has championed policy that contributes to a community protected from as many vaccine-preventable disease as possible. Our members are strongly in favor of a robust and stable system for acquiring and distributing life-saving vaccines for all Oregonians.

The VAP has been essential to family physicians' ability to provide timely vaccinations to people in their community; for many of them it eliminates the up-front costs of purchasing vaccines and provides them at a lower bulk rate price. As all costs to primary care clinics rise year after year, this program has helped many clinics continue to offer vaccines to their patients when they otherwise might have to stop.

Without the funding proposed in SB 42-1, Oregon faces a potential 65-70% reduction in participating clinics, of which there are currently over 300. Rural communities which already experience health care access challenges would be most impacted.

The timing couldn't be more crucial. In 2024, Oregon saw its highest number of measles cases in 30 years and over 1,000 pertussis cases - the largest outbreak in 50 years. Our pediatric immunization rates are at their lowest since 2018. We cannot afford to lose this vital program now, when our national public health infrastructure is under threat.

SB 42-1's \$5 million allocation for vaccine purchases and \$1.8 million for program administration represents a smart investment in Oregon's public health infrastructure. Because the program replenishes immunization funds through quarterly billing, this one-time investment in the purchase of vaccines will have lasting benefits for our communities. Additionally, the Oregon Health Authority has committed to continuing the work the Vaccine Finance Reform Steering Committee began last year to explore more sustainable models for vaccine financing that the state could implement in the future.

I urge you to support SB 42 and the -1 amendment to protect access to vital immunization services for Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Betsy Boyd-Flynn

Executive Director and CEO

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