

Submitter: Juliana Sarwary
On Behalf Of: Oregon Pediatric Society
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB42
DATE: 3/25/25

TO: Senator Patterson, Chair

Senator Hayden, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Healthcare

FROM: Juliana Sarwary, MD

On behalf of the Oregon Pediatric Society

SUBJECT: Support for SB 42: Protecting Oregon's Vaccine Access Program

My name is Juliana Sarwary, and I am a pediatrician and member of the Oregon Pediatric Society (OPS), the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Our members are committed to improving the health and well-being of all Oregon children. I write in strong support of Senate Bill 42, which will give crucial funding to our state's Vaccine Access Program (VAP).

The VAP has been essential to Oregon's ability to provide timely vaccinations to children because it eliminates the up-front costs of purchasing vaccines, and provides them at a lower bulk-rate price. 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 important. In 2024, Oregon saw its highest number of measles cases in 30 years and more than 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.

We know vaccines save lives and I urge you to vote for SB 42 and the -1 amendment

to protect access to vital immunization services for Oregonian children. Thank you for prioritizing public and children's health.

Thank you,
Juliana Sarwary, MD