

March 25, 2025

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



Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Meg Olson, and I am here today in support of Senate Bill 42 and the -2 Amendment. I am here on behalf of the parent and community advocates of Oregon Families for Vaccines and as the mom of four amazing children. I helped found Oregon Families for Vaccines in 2023, partly inspired by a Facebook group of parents across our state who came together to help each other find vaccine access points.

You've heard today how the Vaccine Access Program helps providers stock and offer vaccines to their patients and how cuts to this program will harm our most vulnerable communities.

As parents, we assume that if our child is due for immunizations, they will get them at their annual check-up. These days medical appointments are not easy to schedule, so you take the time you get. For many parents this can mean missing work, having to use sick time or PTO, taking your child out of school and even making arrangements for childcare for other children.

You've done all this to get your child to their regular well-child visit and then you're told that while their doctor does recommend the vaccines they're due for, they can't stock them for financial reasons. While your provider may direct you to a site where vaccines are available, this means you have to jump through those scheduling, child care, and work-related hoops all over again. For some families, making that second visit is not possible. This program allows those of us who want immunizations for our children and our families to be able to access them easily with the providers we trust.

In the submitted written testimony you'll hear the voices of currently enrolled and waitlisted providers, community advocates, and community-based organizations. Currently enrolled VAP providers include local pediatric clinics and family practices, school-based health centers, tribal health centers, FQHCs, local public health departments, naturopathic providers, and other culturally and community-specific providers. Waitlisted providers also include small practices, pharmacies serving as primary access points for seniors and older adults, county sheriff's departments, and more.

They are asking to remain or become vaccine access points for their communities – to protect vaccine access across Oregon for people who want them. I encourage you to consider their voices thoroughly and urge your support for Senate Bill 42.

Thank you,
Meg Olson
Oregon Families for Vaccines