

Submitter: Evelyn Pelayo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB42
03/26/2025

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

Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Evelyn Pelayo, and I am writing to you today in support of Senate Bill 42 and the -2 amendment. I am a parent in Oregon and Program Supervisor for David Douglas Student Health Center, where I provide health care and vaccines to youth. I work with many families of different races, ethnicities, and cultures, including youth and families who are newly arrived in this county.

Vaccines prevent mass outbreaks, eradicate diseases, and save lives. However, access to vaccines in Oregon is currently at risk. Oregon's Vaccine Access Program (VAP) is critical to the health of Oregonians, but it is at risk of being significantly underfunded. This funding reduction, estimated to be 65-70% of enrolled clinics, will threaten vaccine access statewide, particularly for low-income populations, rural communities, and historically marginalized groups.

This comes at a time when our communities saw the highest number of measles cases in 30 years and the largest pertussis outbreak in the last 50 years. Childhood immunization rates are at the lowest we've seen in Oregon since 2018.

Please protect the health of Oregonians by voting yes on Senate Bill 42 and the -1 amendment.

Thank you,

Evelyn Pelayo