

Submitter: Tkeisha Wydro
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to this bill due to concerns about the language in Section (8), page 3, line 32.

Several witnesses stated that this bill does not create a vaccine mandate or require compliance with orders from the Public Health Officer. However, the wording in Section (8) does not provide the firm protection that has been described. The clause states that a standing order "may not" require a person to receive, use, or administer a drug or device. In legislative language, "may not" does not create the same binding prohibition as "shall not." It leaves room for interpretation and discretion rather than establishing a clear, enforceable safeguard.

My concern is that this wording does not definitively prevent mandates and could allow future requirements to be imposed by an unelected Public Health Officer. If the intent is truly to prohibit mandates, the language should clearly reflect that intent.

For these reasons, I urge you to reconsider or amend this provision.

Thank you for your consideration.