

Submitter: Allison Bernaldez  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

I am in strong support of SB1598. I am a resident of Beaverton, OR, and in the fall of 2025, my husband and I had to go up to Vancouver, WA to receive our Covid-19 vaccinations. We have three young kids who are in public school, so it is incredibly important to us that we are able to access updated Covid-19 vaccines as soon as they are available. We made the decision to drive up to Vancouver on September 7th where we were able to receive the vaccines. Our children were not able to, because they were only available for adults at that point. Our oldest child tested positive for Covid just a couple of weeks later, on September 25th, and I tested positive a few days after him. It takes at least two weeks for full protection after receiving a vaccine. If I would've waited for the vaccines to become available in Oregon (which was not approved until September 18th, and it took pharmacies time to open appointments), I would not have been protected when I became infected. Schools are not doing anything to attempt to prevent the spread of Covid, and we deserve to be able to protect ourselves and our children at the earliest moment the federal government approves the updated vaccines. Between waiting on the federal government approvals, the state government approvals, insurance hassles, pharmacy hassles, changing age restrictions (which now limits our ability to get our kids Covid vaccines, because our only option now is our small pediatrician's office), it has become even more difficult to receive Covid vaccinations over time, which is incredibly backwards. Remove the barriers to allow Oregonians access to vaccinations as soon as possible. Thank you.