

Submitter:

Juliann Stanis

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1598

My name is Juliann Stanis, and I support vaccine access.

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Juliann Stanis, MN, RNC-MNN, and I write in strong support of Senate Bill 1598. This legislation protects access to evidence-based preventive services and ensures that Oregonians do not face unnecessary barriers or delays in receiving essential care. By granting Oregon the authority to issue standing orders and respond nimbly when federal changes threaten access, this bill strengthens our state's ability to safeguard public health. Updating Oregon's insurance code preserves continuity of coverage for widely supported preventive services, including immunizations, at a time when stability is urgently needed.

I offer this testimony from multiple perspectives.

As a parent, my children were medically fragile infants who depended on the health of the surrounding community to remain safe. Herd immunity was not an abstract concept for our family; it was a daily reality. My children are now adults. They live with the lingering stigma of misrepresented research that falsely associates autism with vaccines—vaccines that protected them from serious illness. The consequences of misinformation are not theoretical. They shape public perception, influence policy, and affect real families.

As a nurse caring for premature, medically fragile infants and neonates, I witness firsthand how vulnerable these patients are to vaccine-preventable diseases. Many cannot yet be fully immunized. They rely on their mothers, caregivers, and broader community for protection. Ensuring seamless access to preventive services, including vaccinations, is not optional—it is foundational to their survival.

In my clinical practice, I engage in daily conversations with patients and families who are navigating a complex and often overwhelming information landscape. I help them sift through misinformation so they can make informed decisions grounded in scientific evidence. Increasingly, I observe how confusion and distrust create hesitancy that places individuals and communities at risk.

Through my doctoral work, I am also examining the direct impact of misinformation on vaccine uptake among vulnerable populations. The data reflect what we are seeing clinically: declining immunization rates, erosion of community immunity, and renewed susceptibility to entirely preventable diseases such as measles. These trends are not coincidental; they are the predictable outcome of weakened access, policy instability, and the amplification of misinformation.

Senate Bill 1598 provides critical infrastructure to protect preventive care in Oregon. It ensures continuity, reinforces evidence-based standards, and empowers the state to respond swiftly when access is threatened. In the current environment, such

authority is essential.

Protecting preventive services protects families, infants, and communities. I respectfully urge your support of Senate Bill 1598.

Please pass Senate Bill 1598.