

Dear Senators of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

Thank you for the opportunity to share three of my concerns regarding SB1598.

First, the financial impact. During testimony on Monday, 2/9/26, several supporters noted how expensive certain vaccines can be. This bill would require insurance companies to fully cover any vaccine deemed necessary by a non-elected public health official. The cost of that requirement will ultimately fall on private insurance policyholders and taxpayers who fund public insurance programs. In other words, the financial burden will be borne by the public.

Second, the potential for mandates. Section (8) of the bill states:

"A standing order issued under this section may not require a person to receive, use or administer a drug or device or withhold a drug or device from a person."

At first glance, this language appears reassuring to the general public. However, in legislative terms, as you know, "may not" differs significantly from "shall not." "Shall not" creates a clear prohibition. "May not" can allow for interpretation and discretion. As written, this language does not provide strong or explicit protection against future mandates imposed by an unelected Public Health Officer.

Third, the impact on the doctor-patient relationship. This bill encourages bypassing a patient's primary care provider. A primary care physician understands a patient's full medical history, current medications, and potential interactions. Removing that consultation increases the risk of avoidable complications and weakens an essential component of individualized medical care.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote "no" on SB1598.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
James Carroll