

Submitter: Caroline Bader
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598
Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1598 and to share an experience that underscores why this legislation is important.

Last fall, I went to my local Walgreens in Salem to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. At the pharmacy counter, I was told that the Oregon Board of Pharmacy required a prescription for COVID-19 vaccination. That information was incorrect. After some discussion, I was ultimately able to receive the vaccine, but the technician appeared to believe I was being granted an exception.

If I had not known that a prescription was not required, I likely would have left without being vaccinated. I am concerned that other Oregonians may have been turned away or discouraged due to similar confusion. Misinformation can create real access barriers; people should be able to make informed health choices and receive vaccines that they are seeking without confusion or barriers.

Senate Bill 1598 helps address this problem by authorizing clear public health standing orders when needed. Ensuring that the Public Health Officer can issue standing orders reduces the risk that misinformation regarding prescription requirements becomes a barrier to vaccination for those who seek it.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting vaccine access in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Carrie Bader
NE Salem