

Submitter: Laura Allen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

I am writing in support of SB 1598 that will give the Oregon State Health Officer the tools needed to protect our access to immunizations that prevent illness and death and save medical costs in the long run. It's unthinkable that the federal government has thrown up limits on evidence-based immunizations for no reasons based on safety, science, or new data. Under the federal changes, some immunizations required prescriptions for the first time.

The federal government's baseless actions caused confusion and delay for Oregon families trying to obtain immunizations. Access was restored by the state in this instance, but Oregon law limits how quickly the state can respond to such interference with our health care. Under SB 1598 the Oregon Health Officer will be able to do what many states allow - issue standing orders to protect the public access to immunizations including access without the need for individual prescriptions. The bill would also ensure insurance coverage as in the past of accepted evidence-based immunizations.

I urge you to make these common sense, limited changes in Oregon law under SB 1598 to protect insurance coverage of immunizations and to allow our health officials to respond to protect evidence-based immunizations that prevent illness and death and save medical costs. Please vote yes on SB 1598. Thank you.

Laura Allen
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