

Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Allison Simpson, and I am a pediatrician who cares for hospitalized newborns and children, member of the Oregon Pediatric Society Advocacy Committee, and mother. I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 1598, as a means of protecting access to and coverage of evidence-based preventive services.

Last Fall, Oregon's pediatric providers struggled to offer vaccines as changing federal guidelines sparked confusion among patients about insurance coverage and eligibility. With a lack of clarity, providers were left at the front-line of this uncertainty, especially as they wanted to ensure their patients would not face insurmountable out-of-pocket costs.

Preventing disease is critical for our communities and our families. This bill ensures access to and coverage of preventative care and preserves choice for families who want immunizations. The majority of the patients I care for are hospitalized in the neonatal intensive care unit, and let me tell you that these precious newborns' health and wellbeing will benefit from your support of this bill.

This bill is an important step to ensure Oregonians have continued access to preventive care they seek for themselves and their families.

I urge your support of Senate Bill 1598.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Simpson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Allison Simpson, DO, FAAP
Pediatric Hospitalist