

Submitter: Vanessa Becker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

I am writing to support SB 1598.

Passing this bill will increase choice, medical freedom and access to vaccines for those that want them. Changes at the federal level regarding access, payment and availability of immunizations has sewn confusion between patients and providers. This bill will help to encourage providers to talk with their patients to make informed decisions about vaccine preventable illnesses. There are no mandates in this bill, there is no change in the school exclusion processes in this bill, all the processes (such as how to get a medical or non-medical exemption) remain the same. What this bill does do is keep vaccine access and choice local and more insulated from federal influences, it does not force anyone to get a vaccine. It also supports prevention of diseases that can cause high morbidity and mortality. It allows our state to respond to ever changing, non-evidence based decisions at the federal level and retain choice for all Oregonians. It does this when we are seeing record cases of influenza, pertussis, measles and RSV so it is even more vital than ever to support this important public health preventive. Please join me in supporting this important bill for the health of all Oregonians.