



February 11, 2026

Chair Patterson and members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Patrick Luedtke. I am a physician practicing at several primary care clinics in Lane County.

I respectfully ask that you support SB 1598. This bill, as drafted, ensures that health insurers cover evidence-based services as recommended by Oregon's State Health Officer. Despite some claiming otherwise, this bill does not create vaccine mandates or add new vaccines to the currently recommended vaccine schedule that clinicians have followed for many years. SB 1598 simply promotes health and protects communities via evidence-based recommendations.

It is an unfortunate reality today that medicine is becoming increasingly politicized: No where is that truer than in the realm of vaccines. Despite that politicization, the overwhelming majority of Oregon parents continue to ensure their own health and the health of their families by choosing to vaccinate. In Lane County, depending on the particular vaccine reviewed, 85% to 95% of parents and children are up to date on recommended vaccines.

Should this bill fail, several negative results would likely occur: Patients would have to pay more "out of pocket" for evidence-based services; preventable disease outbreaks would increase; and the health of individuals and communities would suffer. Please support SB 1598.

Sincerely,

Patrick F. Luedtke MD, MPH
Community Health Centers of Lane County