

Submitter: Mary Hennrich
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598
Senator Patterson and Senate Health Care Committee

As a retired Public Health Nurse and PH Administrator (50+ year career) In my lifetime, I have seen the devastating effects of children who have not been vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases. Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Pertussis. As a child, a neighbor contracted polio before there was a vaccine and my memories of visiting their home with Mr. "R" in an iron lung will remain with me forever.

SB 1598 is a common sense bill that would have made access to these vital immunizations this past year much faster and easier when the federal government was taken over by bureaucrats with no public health/medical expertise. Oregon did not have the law provisions that are now included in HB1598 that many other states had. This caused confusion and delay in getting children, whose parents wanted them to be, immunized. Our state Health Officer needs this legal authorization to sign "standing orders" and will avoid any such delays in the future.

I know that you, Chair Patterson and Committee Member, Dr. Lisa Reynolds understand the need for this law and I will be waiting for you to pass it out of Committee with a "do Pass" recommendation VERY SOON.
Thanks for ALL you do for the health and safety of Oregon's children, families and communities.

Mary Lou Hennrich