



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Pediatric Society¹, I am writing in strong support of SB 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. Too many of our members saw patients who were unsure about what was or was not covered based on shifting guidelines. Many of these patients knew they wanted to receive immunizations but were reluctant to seek care due to insurance-related concerns.

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.

We acknowledge and appreciate that SB 1598 does not mandate immunizations or require anyone to receive care. Rather it ensures that preventive care will be covered for those who want access. Moreover, it respects medical judgment and keeps decisions between patients and providers.

Lastly, it is worth noting that Oregon joined the West Coast Health Alliance, alongside California, Hawaii and Washington, in the Fall of 2025. This group was created to ensure vaccine recommendations are evidence-based and grounded in science. This bill is an important step toward full participation in that Alliance, something Oregon's pediatricians have a vested interest in as they work to protect their patients' access to vaccines, as well as the potential for other evidence-based preventive care.

Preventing disease is critical for our communities and our families. This bill ensures access to and coverage of preventive care and preserves choice for families who want immunizations.

Please support Senate Bill 1598.

Sincerely,

Kelly E. Coates, PhD, MPH
Executive Director
Oregon Pediatric Society

¹ The Oregon Pediatric Society is the Oregon chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and represents more than 700 pediatric providers caring for infants, children and adolescents across our state.