



# WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

Monday, February 9th, 2026

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

On behalf of Washington County Public Health, I urge you to support SB 1598, which will protect access to vaccination for people who live in Oregon.

SB 1598 would preserve vaccine access for people who live in Oregon during a time of changing federal recommendations and rising cost of living. It allows Oregon's State Health Officer to make evidence-based recommendations for immunizations, and it requires health insurance plans to cover those immunizations. This is aligned with steps taken by other states in the West Coast Health Alliance, including Washington and California. It is an important step to ensure that people who want a vaccine no longer recommended by the federal government can access it and have it covered by their health plan.

The central goal of this bill is access – it is about making sure people who live in Oregon can make their own decisions about accessing essential vaccines by ensuring their health plans cover them. Not taking this step could risk coverage of essential vaccinations, which would disproportionately impact communities that already have [lower](#) vaccination rates.

By supporting this SB 1598, the Oregon Legislature will ensure that state's vaccine recommendations and coverage reflect sound science, effectiveness, and safety. We urge your support of SB 1598. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Marie Boman-Davis, PhD, MPH, MCHES  
Public Health Division Manager & Local Public Health Administrator