



Comments before the
House Rules Committee
In Support of
HB 4135

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society advocating for evidence-based public policies to reduce the cancer burden for everyone. On behalf of our constituents, many of whom have been personally affected by cancer, we urge your support of legislation that increases the awareness of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the infections it can cause and the cancers to which it is linked, and the availability of a vaccine which can prevent more than 90-percent of HPV cancers when administered on-time.

The HPV virus is so common that it will infect most people—eight out of ten—at some point in their lives. Most infected people do not know they have it. The best way to prevent an HPV infection is to receive the vaccination which can prevent six types of cancer: cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers in women; penile cancer in men; throat cancers in men and women; and anal cancer in men and women. Because there is no way to know which infections will turn into cancer, it is important that all eligible individuals receive the vaccination.

Unfortunately, in Oregon, the vaccination rate amongst those eligible has remained relatively flat since 2021. According to the KFF HPV Vaccination Coverage Among Teens Ages 13-17, 2023, Oregon, the vaccination rate was 68-percent.¹ The American Cancer Society recommends the HPV vaccine for all children be given between the ages of 9 and 12, before they are exposed to the virus.

We urge your support of increasing awareness of HPV, its prevention, and the importance of cervical screening with the adoption of HB 4135.

Thank you for your consideration of these remarks.

Jane Leo
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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

¹ KFF Oregon Women's Healthcare Access & Utilization Data; Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vaccination Coverage among Adolescents (13-17 Years), from the National Immunization Survey-Teen, accessed February 12, 2025.