

**LISA REYNOLDS, MD**  
**STATE SENATOR**  
**District 17**



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

**Testimony in Support of HB 4135**

February 17, 2026  
House Committee On Rules  
8:00 a.m., Hearing Room 50

Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Pham, Vice Chair Elmer, and members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Lisa Reynolds, and I serve as Senator for Oregon's 17th District. I also work as a pediatrician serving children and families in my district and beyond.

I speak here in strong support of HB 4135, in which Oregon would designate March 4th of each year as HPV Awareness Day, in concert with International HPV Awareness Day.

March fourth - move forward.

HPV, Human papillomavirus, is the most common sexually transmitted infection and a leading cause of several cancers, including cervical, rectal, and oral cancers. Many people who become infected with HPV do not know they have it and it may go undetected for many years. It spreads via sexual contact.

Often, HPV resolves on its own with a person never knowing they were infected. Other times, it can cause several types of cancers. We endeavor to screen for HPV-related cancers and nip it in the bud. Other times, the cancer has taken hold and requires extensive treatment. And, in tragic cases, like my dear friend and colleague the late Hoa Nguyen, these cancers can end a life even tho there is so much left to do and to give.

Let us note that HPV related cancers are preventable. There is a vaccine against HPV which works by using non-infectious, virus-like particles (proteins) to stimulate the immune system to produce antibodies. These antibodies recognize and neutralize the HPV virus before it can infect cells. By preventing infection, the vaccine protects against HPV-related cancers and it is most effective when administered before exposure to the virus. We are seeing a 90% decline in invasive cervical cancer and

We know the antibody response is higher among younger recipients, and so we tend to start the two shot series between the ages of 9-12 years old.

As a pediatrician, I regularly offer and administer the HPV vaccine for my patients. It is a safe and effective way to prevent the strains of HPV that can lead to cancer. The HPV vaccine has resulted in a significant decrease in cancers caused by HPV.

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Furthermore, there is early detection with routine pap smears and HPV swabs.

Designating March 4th of each year would help spread awareness of HPV, encouraging Oregonians to get vaccinated, get screened, and seek treatment as needed. And let's make sure the House passes [SB 1527](#), which requires insurance plans to cover the work up of abnormal screen tests - aiding in early detection and staging of cervical cancer.

Please vote yes on HB 4135 .

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