



Representative Lamar Wise
Oregon House District 48

HB 4135 Testimony

Chair and Members of the Committee, For the record, my name is Representative Lamar Wise, and I am honored to serve House District 48.

Before I speak to the bill, I want to acknowledge something personal. I currently serve in the seat once held by Representative Hoa Nguyễn. She represented HD 48 with deep compassion, courage, and an unwavering commitment to community health and equity. I am mindful every day that I sit in a seat shaped by her leadership and her legacy. It is an honor I carry with humility.

House Bill 4135 is simple in language, but powerful in purpose. Establishing March 4th as HPV Awareness Day costs very little, but it creates an intentional moment each year to educate families, reduce stigma, and share medically accurate information about prevention and screening.

In my own family, I've seen how gaps in awareness can shape health outcomes. Some of my relatives did not receive the HPV vaccine when they were younger, not because they were opposed to it, but because no one clearly explained when it was recommended or why it mattered. Information did not reach them in a timely or culturally relevant way. That is not uncommon.

When vaccination rates are below national goals, and when screening rates leave nearly half of eligible women outside recommended guidelines, we know awareness is still uneven. Rural communities, low-income families, and communities of color are often the last to receive consistent, preventative information. An annual awareness

day helps close that gap by reinforcing guidance about vaccination starting at age nine and routine screening beginning at 21.

This bill does not mandate. It encourages. It aligns with the Oregon Health Authority and local partners who are already doing this work. It gives us a coordinated opportunity to lift up prevention, early detection, and health equity across the state.

If we can prevent more than 90 percent of HPV-related cancers through vaccination and early screening, then increasing awareness is not optional, it is responsible public policy.

In the spirit of service that has long defined House District 48, I respectfully urge your support for HB 4135. Thank you.