



Comments before the
Senate Committee on Rules
In Support of
HB 4135
March 3, 2026

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 eight out of ten people 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. Vaccination rates for 13 to 17 year-olds has plateaued at approximately 59% in urban areas and 52.7% in rural areas.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 cancer screening with the adoption of HB 4135.

Thank you for your consideration of these remarks.

Jane Leo
Government Relations Director - Oregon
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

¹ 2025 Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, co-created by Knight Cancer Institute's Community Outreach and Engagement, OHSU; and Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section