

Submitter: Maureen Hinman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4135
Chairs Jama and Starr and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maureen “Mo” Hinman, and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance, a statewide nonprofit that supports school-based health centers and youth health across Oregon.

I am writing in support of legislation designating March 4 as HPV Awareness Day in Oregon.

HPV is incredibly common, yet there is still far too little public awareness about the virus, the cancers it can cause, and the protection offered by the HPV vaccine. The reality is that cervical cancer and several other cancers are largely preventable through widespread vaccination.

Through our work with youth across Oregon, we see how powerful education can be. Youth in our programs have led peer education efforts in health classes, helping other students understand HPV, how the vaccine works, and where they can access care through school-based health centers. What we consistently hear is that many young people simply have not received enough information about HPV or the vaccine.

Establishing HPV Awareness Day would help bring attention to this preventable public health issue and encourage conversations between youth, families, schools, and health providers. Young people deserve accurate information so they can make informed decisions about their health.

With education and access to vaccination, we have the tools to eliminate cervical cancer. Recognizing HPV Awareness Day is a meaningful step toward that goal.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge you to vote yes.

Maureen Hinman
Executive Director
Oregon School-Based Health Alliance