



## ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: February 28, 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Education

RE: SB 274, relating to immunizations

Chair Roblan and Committee Members:

Lane County has long been supportive of ensuring that local residents are vaccinated against contagious diseases. We have reviewed SB 274 and the dash two amendment for the measure and ask that you support this measure by scheduling a work session for it.

Lane County is home to several institutions that provide housing to students, and our experience in combatting contagious diseases is real. In 2015, our staff assisted the University of Oregon in administering almost 20,000 doses of two vaccinations to help curtail the spread of the meningitis virus that endangered the student and faculty population at the University of Oregon, and indeed the larger community around the institution. That outbreak resulted in a number of severe illnesses and one death. It serves as an example of why this bill is so critical. College campuses are unfortunately prone to a variety of disease outbreaks.

The cost of prevention is minor compared to the cost of response. In addition to legal action that has followed the UO outbreak; the Oregon Health Authority reimbursed both the University and Lane County for costs associated with that outbreak through Emergency Board action in December, 2016. The \$659,392 represented the costs to cover the non-insured population at the UO that received a vaccination. The LFO report on that expenditure indicated these costs were relatively low given negotiations with insurers and pharmaceutical companies that helped respond to the outbreak. SB 274 is certainly a preventative measure.

Lane County Public Health is constantly working on preventative measures in our community in order to negate the negative impacts of disease on individuals and the communities' taxpayers and ratepayers at large. Education is often a core element of these measures and SB 274 will ensure that institutions throughout Oregon are being pro-active with the Health Authority, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While not specifically mentioned in the bill, the local county public health program will be a resource for institutions in Oregon as well.