



## **HB 3276 Coverage of Health Services Necessary to Combat a Disease Outbreak or Epidemic**

The Oregon State Pharmacy Association and the Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists support HB 3276. There have now been two recent meningitis B outbreaks at Oregon universities. Emergency management agencies, universities, and pharmacists have successfully come together quickly to provide mass vaccinations to protect our students and stop a potentially deadly disease.

However, inconsistent insurance coverage and payment for vaccines has proved to be a significant barrier to providing lifesaving vaccines in an emergency. University students come from all parts of the state of Oregon and have all types of health insurance. There are literally hundreds of different plans. In an emergent situation, it is logistically impossible to determine which insurance plans cover treatment and to set up contracts to bill and assure payment for providing these vaccines. Uncertainty over coverage decreases public participation in obtaining treatment necessary to stop an outbreak.

HB 3276 would assure that vaccines, medicine, or services required in an outbreak or epidemic situation would be covered by all insurers in Oregon, allowing for a more rapid and complete response to an emergency without patients, universities, health departments, or providers worrying about payment or reimbursement.

HB 3276 also convenes a task force to address how payment for these vaccines and services will occur in an emergency. Both of these provisions will result in a substantially increased capability to respond to public health emergencies in the State of Oregon. OSPA and OSHP urge your support of HB 3276.