

March 24, 2017

TO: The Honorable Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Collette Young, Administrator  
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SUBJECT: House Bill 3276

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee; I am Collette Young, Administrator of the Center for Public Health Practice in the Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). I am here today to provide information on House Bill 3276.

House Bill 3276 requires health benefit plan coverage during disease outbreaks, as well as requiring OHA to convene a task group to make recommendations for coverage of students during campus outbreaks. Over the past three years, the Public Health Division has helped respond to two meningitis outbreaks at Oregon university campuses. Over five months in 2015, seven cases of meningococcal B disease were identified at the University of Oregon. This year, three cases of meningococcal B disease have been identified at Oregon State University. Both of these outbreaks necessitated conducting large-scale vaccination campaigns for large student populations.

During both responses, insurance reimbursement for meningococcal B vaccine has been a barrier to ensuring student access to vaccinations. Through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), students up to age 26 can be included on their parent's insurance. The ACA requires coverage of routinely recommended vaccines, however meningococcal B vaccine is not routinely recommended. Additionally, the ACA only requires reimbursement if the vaccine was administered by an in-network provider. Student health services and local health departments are not included in most insurer's networks.

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We believe that the task force proposed in this legislation can help move this work forward, as well as helping us develop a shared understanding of outbreak response including how a response is run, roles and responsibilities of each organization and best practices. With this shared understanding, the task force could make recommendations to address barriers that obstruct efforts to respond quickly.

Thank you for the opportunity to share information with you. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.