



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
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DATE: March 24, 2017
TO: House Committee on Health Care
RE: HB 3276, relating to health care

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

Lane County supports HB 3276 and requests the Committee schedule a work session on this measure.

Lane County's Public Health Division and the University of Oregon jointly responded to a campus wide meningitis outbreak in 2015. Mass vaccination clinics were one tool that was provided in response to the outbreak. More recently, Oregon State University has been dealing with a smaller, but similar outbreak.

Promoting and in some cases, requiring immunizations is a necessary and effective response and local public health authorities monitor these situations closely as these kinds of diseases can spread beyond college campuses and into the surrounding communities relatively easily.

However, in both cases insurance coverage was not a given. At OSU, the costs to students is \$145 per dose, and students "should check with their insurance companies whether or not it is covered" according the information from OSU health officials.

In December, 2016, the Emergency Board reimbursed the University of Oregon \$659,392 to cover vaccine costs that were not covered by insurance during the 2015 outbreak.

HB 3276 will fix this situation, and addresses situations where vaccines may be new to the marketplace, as they were for the meningitis vaccines during the outbreaks of 2015 and 2016 at the UO and OSU.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY