

Submitter: Kristi Murphy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB1529

There are so many moving parts in the COVID world right now and I have just been made aware of the changes that have been made to SB 1529, which will allow the OHA Director to make determinations about and take action on the health of Oregon Residents without the Governor's input. This feels extremely tenuous and dangerous.

Oregon missed a lot of opportunities during these last two years of COVID response. As the home to some of the best schools of Naturopathic and Chinese Medicine, alternative practices and protocols were not utilized in the prevention or treatment of the current virus despite great effect around the country and around the globe.

I feel that placing the power of action in the hands of the OHA Direction removes any buffer between Oregon inhabitants and health protocols determined best by this organization focused on allopathic standards of care with the potential to create forced treatment protocols and mandates that aren't necessarily in the best interest of all.

In addition, the "health care emergency" language is extremely concerning to me, as it grants the unelected Public Health Director the ability to make this declaration without important oversight.

For instance, the Director could determine that "there exists a disease outbreak, epidemic or other condition of public health importance, statewide, or in a specified geographic area of Oregon."

An example of this would be if every winter, the OHA Director, at his sole discretion, could determine that there is a Flu emergency and dictate that everyone mask up, close businesses, shut down in-person learning, and/or get vaccinated. This is far too much authority for someone holding an unelected position.

Oregon missed an important Public Health opportunity to teach about self care options, preventative supplements and optimal life choices to prevent our risk of contracting and reducing the severity of COVID, instead relying on shutting down the state and offering only vaccination as a prevention option. This is sad and is untenable every time we are faced with a health crisis.

Please take my concerns into consideration as you consider this decision. Vote no on SB 1529 Engrossed or SB 1529 A.

Thank you,  
Kristi Murphy  
Tigard