

Submitter: Therese Zaiger
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1529

Concerned Citizen,

I oppose SB 1529 A Engrossed

There are no parameters set for what a disease outbreak means or what condition would warrant a matter of “public health importance.” This could mean we would all be required to mask every flu season or kids would be required to start virtual learning if someone in their school contracts a vaccine preventable disease such as the chicken pox. This is far too much power for one person to have.

The summary of the bill is deceptive by claiming the bill is something it is not. The new summary does not include any text about granting additional power to the director of the OHA. The summary of SB 1529 A-Engrossed reads: Allows volunteer qualified health care providers to administer health care services in this state during health care emergency. Allows Public Health Director to direct and deploy volunteer health care providers during health care emergency. Requires Oregon Health Authority to provide workers’ compensation coverage for volunteer health care providers. Defines “health care emergency.”

The bill also does not define what is considered a state of emergency, how long the emergency can last, or give anyone the ability to check the power of the OHA director (currently Patrick Allen). The public health director of the OHA is not an elected position. There is no way we the people could institute change through our legal system if this bill becomes law.

This takes away the voice of the people and gives too much power to unelected officials.

I am adamantly opposed to this legislation SB 1529 A Engrossed!!!!

Respectfully,