



# Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: March 18, 2025

TO: Senator Deb Patterson, Chair; Senator Cedric Hayden, Vice-Chair;  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Healthcare

FROM: Jennifer McCall, DO, FAAP  
Oregon Pediatric Society Vice President

SUBJECT: Support for SB 42-1, Funding the Vaccine Access Program

My name is Dr. Jennifer McCall, Oregon Pediatric Society board vice president and a hospital-based pediatrician in Portland. I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of SB 42, which seeks funding to bridge critical gaps in vaccine access for Oregon's most vulnerable populations: children and older adults in healthcare deserts.

Vaccines are one of the most effective and cost-saving public health measures available. As a pediatrician, I see firsthand the impact of vaccine-preventable diseases and the devastating consequences that arise when children are unable to receive timely immunizations. In underserved areas of Oregon, families often struggle to access essential vaccines due to financial barriers, logistical difficulties, and provider shortages. This bill would provide necessary funding—\$1.8 million for program administration and a one-time \$5 million investment in vaccines—to ensure that every Oregonian, regardless of location or socioeconomic status, has equitable access to lifesaving immunizations.

Investing in this program will save the State far more than it costs. The expenses associated with treating vaccine-preventable diseases, including hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and long-term complications, far exceed the modest investment proposed in this bill. Moreover, outbreaks of diseases such as measles, pertussis, and influenza place an immense strain on our already burdened healthcare system. By proactively addressing vaccine access, we not only protect individual patients but also strengthen public health infrastructure and prevent costly outbreaks.

It is also important to emphasize that the \$5 million allocated for vaccines is a one-time investment. This funding provides us with the critical time needed to develop a sustainable long-term solution for vaccine access in Oregon. Without this bridge funding, many vulnerable Oregonians will remain at risk, and we will continue to face preventable health crises in our communities.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 42-1 and prioritize the health and well-being of Oregon's children and older adults. Thank you for your time and consideration.