

Tuesday, March 18.2025

Senate Committee On Health Care  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear COHYC Chair Patterson and Esteemed Committee Members,

My name is Maren Euwer. I am a parent, Music Teacher, and Public Health Nurse. I am writing to you today in support of Senate Bill 42 and the -1 amendment.

As a Public Health Nurse, I know that vaccines prevent mass outbreaks, eradicate diseases, and save lives. But right now, access to vaccines is at risk for many across our state. I care deeply about vaccine access in Oregon because I have witnessed the resurgence of life-threatening diseases when vaccine rates fall.

The Vaccine Access Program (VAP) is critical to the health of Oregonians. Right now, the VAP is at risk of being significantly underfunded. Diminished VAP funding is currently estimated to affect 65-70% of enrolled clinics, which will threaten vaccine access statewide, particularly low-income populations, rural communities, and historically marginalized groups.

This potential funding reduction comes at the worst possible time. Last year, our communities saw the highest number of measles cases in 30 years and the largest pertussis outbreak in the last 50 years with over 1,000 cases. In addition, childhood immunization rates are at the lowest since 2018.

Please take action to protect the health of Oregonians. Vote yes on Senate Bill 42 and the -1 amendment.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maren Euwer RN". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Maren Euwer, RN

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Parkdale, Oregon 97041