

Submitter: Robert Dannenhoffer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB42
Testimony in Support of SB 42-9

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 42 and the -2 amendment.

For the record, my name is Dr. Robert Dannenhoffer. I am a pediatrician at Aviva Health in Roseburg, a federally qualified health center and am also the Douglas County Public Health Officer. Last year, I served as the Chair of the Vaccine Finance Reform Steering Committee, which included in its final report a recommendation for this funding request.

Oregon is facing a critical moment in vaccine access. In my 45 years as a pediatrician much has changed but most striking is the near elimination of vaccine preventable disease such as measles, meningitis and rotaviral diarrhea.

Unfortunately, vaccine coverage rates have fallen, in part due to troubles accessing vaccines.

The Vaccine Access Program, which SB 42-2 would fund, is a vital tool to address this crisis. This program allows eligible providers, like my FQHC, to access immunizations without upfront costs and we only pay for the vaccines we administer to our patients who are covered by insurance. It would be very difficult for us to purchase immunizations commercial prices and would make it very difficult for us to carry the broad range of vaccines.

Currently, dozens of qualified providers are waitlisted for the VAP program. Failure to pass this bill would mean the VAP will face a 65-70% reduction in enrolled providers. This means hundreds of current access points across the state will face cost increases, threatening their ability to continue providing comprehensive vaccination services.

SB 42 proposes a funding solution that will maintain current operations and expand access to waitlisted providers. As others have mentioned, the one-time \$5 million investment in vaccine purchase funds will be automatically replenished through a quarterly billing process, making this a sustainable investment in Oregon's public health infrastructure.

Now is not the time to risk losing this crucial program. To be clear, SB 42 does not create any vaccine requirements or mandates - it simply ensures that Oregonians who make the choice to get vaccinated can access these services in their home communities.

I urge your support for SB 42 with the -2 amendment. Thank you for your consideration and I am available for any questions.