

House Bill 4135

Sponsored by Representatives HARTMAN, SCHARF, LEVY B, BOWMAN, NELSON, PHAM H, Senator GELSER BLOUIN; Representatives ANDERSEN, BOICE, BUNCH, GAMBA, GRAYBER, HELM, WISE, Senators FREDERICK, JAMA, NERON MISSLIN, PATTERSON, PHAM K, PROZANSKI, SOLLMAN (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Makes March 4th of each year HPV Awareness Day. (Flesch Readability Score: 84.9).
Designates March 4th of each year as HPV Awareness Day.
Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to HPV Awareness Day; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection and a leading cause of several preventable cancers, including cervical, vaginal, vulvar, anal and penile cancers; and

Whereas cervical cancer remains a significant public health concern and HPV vaccination can prevent over 90 percent of cancers caused by HPV, and early detection through routine cervical cancer screening is proven to reduce HPV-related cancer risk dramatically; and

Whereas HPV is believed to be responsible for more than 90 percent of anal and cervical cancers, approximately 70 percent of vaginal and vulvar cancers and 60 percent of penile cancer; and

Whereas many people who become infected with HPV are asymptomatic and do not know they have it; and

Whereas Oregon's HPV vaccination completion rate for adolescents, at approximately 67.6 percent, falls below national public health goals and is lower than in many other states; and

Whereas gaps in public awareness about the timing and importance of HPV vaccination and cervical cancer screening contribute to preventable cancers, delayed diagnoses and long-term health burdens for Oregon families; and

Whereas only 53.1 percent of Oregon women ages 25 to 44 have reported cervical cancer screenings that adequately met the recommended guidelines; and

Whereas clinicians recommend HPV vaccination for adolescents beginning as early as age nine and routine cervical cancer screenings beginning at age 21; and

Whereas many Oregonians remain unaware of when vaccinations or screenings are recommended, and increasing public understanding of these guidelines is essential to improving early detection and prevention; and

Whereas access to HPV vaccinations and cervical cancer screenings is uneven across Oregon, with substantial disparities affecting rural communities, low-income families and communities of color; and

Whereas culturally responsive, community-based outreach efforts are especially effective in reducing stigma related to HPV and improving vaccination and screening rates; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas improving awareness of HPV-related cancer prevention supports Oregon's broader
2 goals around health equity and disease prevention; and

3 Whereas an annual day of awareness around HPV would reinforce the Oregon Health
4 Authority's existing prevention efforts and complement the voluntary work already undertaken by
5 county health departments, school-based health centers, community clinics and youth-serving or-
6 ganizations; and

7 Whereas establishing an annual day of awareness provides a low-cost, high-impact opportunity
8 to elevate public education around HPV prevention, cervical cancer screenings and vaccine avail-
9 ability; and

10 Whereas increasing public awareness of HPV and routine screenings will support statewide
11 goals for reducing cancer disparities and increasing early detection; and

12 Whereas the Legislative Assembly encourages the Oregon Health Authority, as resources allow,
13 to recognize HPV Awareness Day each year through voluntary public education and outreach ac-
14 tivities; and

15 Whereas the Legislative Assembly further encourages local public health authorities, community
16 clinics, county health departments, school-based health centers, educators and youth-serving organ-
17 izations to participate in HPV Awareness Day by sharing medically accurate, age-appropriate and
18 culturally responsive information on HPV prevention and cervical cancer screening; now, therefore,

19 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

20 **SECTION 1.** March 4th of each year is designated as HPV Awareness Day.

21 **SECTION 2.** This 2026 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
22 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2026 Act takes effect
23 on its passage.
24
