

Submitter:

Nicole Chaisson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1598

My testimony

SB 1598 locks in federal preventive care guidelines as they existed on a specific date (June 30, 2025) and requires automatic coverage for any future immunizations recommended by the state Public Health Officer. This creates a rigid, one-size-fits-all approach that bypasses ongoing scientific debate, parental rights, and personal medical decision-making. Mandating coverage for all such services without exceptions or opt-outs effectively forces insurers, employers, and ultimately consumers to fund interventions that some individuals may not want or believe are appropriate for their circumstances. This is particularly concerning for immunizations, where recommendations can evolve based on emerging data, and where informed consent and bodily autonomy should remain paramount.

Premiums for Oregon families and businesses raised. Expanding required coverage without corresponding cost controls or flexibility places additional financial burdens on policyholders. Small businesses and self-insured plans may face disproportionate impacts, potentially leading to reduced offerings or higher out-of-pocket costs for everyone. Oregon already has strong preventive care access through existing laws and federal requirements under the Affordable Care Act there is no demonstrated crisis justifying an emergency declaration and further state-level mandates. Declaring an emergency for this measure seems unwarranted and circumvents normal legislative processes. Preventive health coverage is not a sudden emergency but a policy area that deserves full public hearing, robust debate, and consideration of diverse viewpoints, including potential religious, philosophical, or medical exemptions. For these reasons government overreach into personal health choices, increased costs for Oregonians, and the unnecessary emergency clause I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1598 and vote against its passage. Please prioritize policies that enhance voluntary access to care, protect individual liberties, and control healthcare costs without imposing broad mandates. Thank you for your time and consideration of my views. I ask that this letter be entered into the official record for SB 1598.

Nicole Chaisson