

Submitter: Laura Loertscher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

As a primary care physician, I am an everyday witness to the importance of vaccines to present illness and suffering in our community. As a doctor, I have cared for patients who have died of respiratory infections, including influenza, COVID, RSV, and Streptococcal pneumonia. I am grateful for the ability to empower my patients with some protection from these illnesses, and it is so important to ensure that these vaccines remain available and affordable. My hospital is currently worried about the increased incidence of measles in our community -- a threat that hoped never to see. I often care for patients with chronic liver disease, which is a devastating disease. Access to vaccine preventable infection, such as Hepatitis B, is critical. Access to vaccines has real meaning for the patients I see every day.