

Submitter: Colleen Roberts

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

To the Senate Committee on Healthcare,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on SB 1598. I urge you to strongly oppose this bill and vote “NO.”

“One size fits all” mandates rarely serve the public well. This proposal overlooks essential elements of responsible healthcare decision-making: ongoing medical advances, legitimate scientific debate, individual medical choice, and the fundamental role of parental rights. Removing informed choice, medical discretion, and individual physician oversight in favor of broad medical mandates proved deeply flawed during COVID-19 and contributed to a significant and legitimate erosion of trust in our healthcare system. SB 1598 appears to disregard those lessons.

Also to note-- adding new mandated requirements for insurance companies will inevitably increase costs, which are then passed on to consumers and taxpayers. Oregon already provides voluntary access to preventive services through existing state laws and federal requirements. It is, therefore, unclear what “emergency” this bill seeks to address or justify.

In my view, SB 1598 represents a significant overreach of government authority into the personal lives and healthcare decisions of Oregonians. Please vote, “NO”!