

Submitter: Robert Egner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 1598.

While I support access to quality health care, SB 1598 goes too far in transferring medical and policy decision-making authority away from families, physicians, and elected lawmakers and placing it in the hands of unelected bureaucrats with limited oversight.

This bill grants the Public Health Officer broad, ongoing authority to define future preventive health services, recommend immunizations, and issue statewide standing orders for drugs or devices for vaguely defined “public health concerns.” These decisions would occur without legislative approval, meaningful public input, or clear limits.

The bill also fails to clearly protect parental rights. It does not explicitly affirm parental consent or involvement in medical decisions affecting minors, raising serious concerns about the erosion of parental authority in health care.

Additionally, SB 1598 grants sweeping immunity to state officials while eliminating accountability for harm caused by improper or overly broad use of this authority. Citizens are left without meaningful recourse.

Finally, the use of an emergency clause to enact permanent powers undermines the principle that emergency authority should be narrow, temporary, and subject to legislative review.

Health policy should be guided by transparency, accountability, parental rights, and legislative oversight. SB 1598 does not meet those standards.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1598. NO on SB 1598

Robert Egner
Sweet Home concerned father