

Submitter: Tara McLaughlin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598
Chair, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB1598, a bill that represents one of the most dangerous expansions of government overreach we have seen in Oregon.

SB1598 shifts medical decision-making away from individuals, parents, doctors, and elected legislators and hands it to unelected bureaucrats who have no accountability to the people. This bill is not about health — it is about control.

Oregon Has Always Championed “My Body, My Choice” — Until Now

For decades, Oregon lawmakers defended bodily autonomy. But now that the federal government has affirmed those same rights for vaccines and for children, the state suddenly rejects them. SB1598 exposes a clear double standard: autonomy is only acceptable when it aligns with the state’s political agenda.

SB1598 Grants Unchecked Power to Non-Elected Officials

This bill removes authority from the public and places it in the hands of individuals who cannot be voted out. Oregonians deserve transparent, accountable decision-making — not mandates from appointed bureaucrats.

Threat to Parents and Children

SB1598 allows automatic, statewide medical mandates for school attendance. Parents and pediatricians would be overridden by bureaucratic orders, eliminating case-by-case evaluation and informed consent.

Oregon’s Holistic Healthcare Community Is Ignored

Oregon has a large population that uses holistic, naturopathic, and integrative medicine. These families make thoughtful, intentional medical choices. SB1598 disregards their values by forcing one-size-fits-all mandates that erase medical freedom and threaten long-established healthcare practices.

Forced Compliance Is Not Public Health

Statewide medical orders without individualized assessment create coercion, not informed consent. Public trust cannot survive when government policy replaces personal choice.

Taxpayer-Funded Mandates Burden Families and Small Businesses

SB1598 compels public programs and insurers to fund whatever bureaucrats mandate, pushing more costs onto taxpayers, small businesses, and already struggling working families. As a business owner, I can say plainly: small businesses cannot absorb yet another government-imposed financial burden.

Doctors Are Overridden

This bill undermines the doctor–patient relationship by giving bureaucrats authority that supersedes medical professionals. Patient-specific care cannot exist when political directives take priority over clinical judgement.

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SB1598 Is a Direct Attack on Medical Freedom

SB1598 expands state power while eliminating:

- Parental rights
- Medical autonomy
- Doctor-led decision-making
- Holistic healthcare options
- Financial fairness for taxpayers and small businesses
- Oregon's long-standing values around bodily choice

Oregon cannot promote “my body, my choice” in one context while stripping families of medical choice in another.

I urge you to reject SB1598 and stand with Oregon families, healthcare providers, and small businesses who expect their rights to be respected, not erased.

Remember Oregon is a “my body my choice” health care, until you don't agree with it. Stop the Madness and Overreach of Government!

Respectfully,
Tara McLaughlin
Small Business Owner