

Submitter: Diamond Podmore
On Behalf Of: Myself and the community
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Diamond and I live in Oregon. I oppose SB1598.

This bill gives the Public Health Officer ongoing authority to determine which future immunizations insurance must cover without another vote from the legislature. That is effectively a blank check. Even if it is not called a mandate, universal coverage and promotion often turn into real world pressure tied to school, work, and participation in daily life.

Public trust in health guidance has been strained. Recommendations have changed, and many people feel risks and uncertainties were not always communicated clearly. Expanding authority without stronger oversight will not rebuild confidence. It will deepen resistance.

If coverage is expanded, the bill should include firm protections. It should explicitly state that coverage cannot be used to pressure or penalize anyone who declines. It should require independent review and legislative approval before new immunizations are automatically added. It should reinforce strong informed consent and protect exemptions.

Medical decisions should remain between individuals and their providers, not triggered automatically by future administrative decisions.

Diamond