

Submitter: Audrey Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

As someone working in pediatrics, I can say from first-hand experience that ensuring recommendations for immunizations are based on science and that their costs will be covered by insurance will make a huge difference in the health of Oregonians and their trust in our healthcare system. Parents often come to the clinic with concerns about the ongoing availability of vaccines and the necessity of getting any that may not be covered by their insurance (as with this season's COVID vaccine). At a time when people feel financially vulnerable, are at a loss at finding trusted sources of information, and fear the diminishing access they may have to healthcare, it is crucial that we make put patient health and overall wellbeing at the front and center of our policy making. I support Senate Bill 1598 to help make vaccines easier to access!