

Submitter: Peter Reed
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598
9 February 2026

Testimony in support of SB 1598

To the Senate Committee on Health Care:

I support SB 1598 to ensure Oregon's children have access to evidence-based, life-saving vaccines.

I am a community pediatrician practicing in a Portland-area clinic serving children and adolescents with public insurance, i.e. Medicaid/Oregon Health Plan, and private/commercial insurance. Our patients rely on insurance to pay for vaccinations. Without this coverage, vaccinations would be prohibitively expensive for most Oregonians, resulting in severe under-immunization and putting kids at risk for life-threatening, vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, tetanus, and polio.

Much of the testimony submitted in opposition to SB 1598 makes the false claim that this bill would reduce choice. On the contrary, SB 1598 preserves the availability of vaccines to those who chose to get vaccinated, and SB 1598 will help maintain the freedom for Oregon's youth to attend school without the threat of exposure to vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccines are an American success story. SB 1598 enables that story to continue in the face of disinformation and science-denial coming from social media and parts of the federal government. I urge your support of SB 1598.

Sincerely,

Peter Reed, MD, MPH, FAAP

Portland, OR