

Submitter: Robert Sowdon  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598  
Chair and committee members,

SB 1598 – Requires certain health benefit plans to provide coverage for preventive health services in accordance with federal rules in effect on June 30, 2025, and immunizations recommended by the Public Health Officer in the future. Gives the Public Health Officer the power to make some health benefit plans provide coverage for vaccines. Authorizes the Public Health Officer, or designated physician, to issue a standing order for a prescription to control, prevent, mitigate or treat any infectious or noninfectious disease or other significant public health concern.

This is one more creeping crawl towards the “death panel” conspiracy theory by authorizing a “public authority” to mandate any medical procedure or injection statewide without individual consent, and doctor input. When decision-making is centralized to the State and accountability is eliminated, parental choice, medical discretion, and informed choice are weakened and in some instances eliminated.

SB1598 Is concerning and unacceptable for the health of Oregonians.

Will allow unchecked authority to unelected public health officials to make decisions affecting all of us, without further legislation or public debate.

SB 1598 Overrides doctors and removes the ability of doctors to make decisions in the best interest of their patients.

Clears the way for automatic medical mandates that affect access to schools — without another legislative vote or public input.

Creates forced state-wide compliance by invoking one-size-fits-all medical orders without individual consent. This is authoritarian, not democratic.

Thank you