

LISA REYNOLDS, MD
STATE SENATOR
District 17



OREGON STATE SENATE

Testimony in Support of SB 1598

June 23, 2025

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

3:00 p.m., Hearing Room D

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair McLane, and members of the committee. My name is Lisa Reynolds - I am state senator from SD 17 in Portland and Washington County

And as I'm fond of reminding you all, lest you forget, I am a pediatrician.

This is an insurance bill/consumer protection.

Vaccines are safe and popular - the vast majority of Oregonians choose to have their children fully vaccinated.

Last fall, confusion around the federal government's recommendations initially disrupted access to the COVID-19 vaccines. The West Coast Health Alliance, representing WA, CA, OR and HI, worked to right the metaphorical apple cart by placing standing orders to allow pharmacies, for example, to vaccinate Oregonians against COVID.

And, I will tell you there are some pharmacies who are shying away from vaccinating *any* kids because of the confusion sowed over the COVID vaccine last fall. Our providers need clarity.

This bill seeks to provide continued access and insurance coverage for the vast majority who follow medical experts' recommendations. That's it.

I have patients and constituents who are very nervous about the future availability and access to the vaccines that they desperately want for their children. I hear from them all the time. And of course, my fellow pediatric providers are concerned and frustrated about the confusion wrought by the always moving target of what federal leaders message.

This bill helps families who choose to vaccinate their babies and children by giving the state the ability to issue standing orders - permitting pharmacists to continue vaccinating their neighbors, to continue with insurance coverage of life-saving and cost effective preventions. The vaccines covered by this legislation are Oregon's Public Health Officer issues after considering evidence-based guidance and recommendations from medical and scientific organizations.

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As a health care provider who spends a lot of time sitting across from families discussing vaccines benefits and side effects, I am comfortable with the standing order provision. It does not disrupt the provider patient relationship, rather it gives families many different avenues in which to receive their vaccine, including by pharmacists who are trained to have the same counselling with vaccine recipients.

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