

Submitter: Suzanne Mendez  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

I'm a Board-certified Pediatrician and also the mother of three children in Oregon, and I'm writing to express how important preventative care and vaccine access is to the health and well-being of all Oregonians. Please support this bill so that we can continue to provide the highest quality of care to all children, regardless of their financial and socioeconomic status. In my work in the nursery, I've had many families confused about whether they can still access hepatitis B vaccine for their newborn if they want it. I've also seen the devastating consequences of vaccine-preventable illness, ranging from seizures due to influenza in a healthy teen to life-threatening cases of whooping cough in infants too young to be protected by vaccines. For whooping cough, infants need their caregivers and family members to have access to the vaccines as immunity often wanes with older age. Please protect the most vulnerable in our communities. Thank you!