

Submitter: Cyndi Vipperman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

To whom it may concern,
In writing in Support for Strengthening Preventive Health Service Protections in Health Benefit Plans.

As a constituent and a concerned advocate for accessible healthcare, I am writing to urge your support for legislation that secures and modernizes preventive health coverage within our state's health benefit plans. Specifically, I support the requirement that plans provide coverage for preventive services in accordance with federal rules in effect on June 30, 2025, and for immunizations recommended by the Public Health Officer in the future.

This policy is essential for the following reasons:

Stability and Protection: By anchoring coverage to the federal standards in place on June 30, 2025, we ensure that Oregonians do not lose access to life-saving screenings—such as those for cancer, diabetes, and heart disease—should federal protections be rolled back or weakened in the future.

Expert-Led Public Health: Empowering the Public Health Officer to recommend future immunizations allows our state to remain agile. It ensures that as new health threats emerge, our insurance requirements can be updated based on medical science rather than slow-moving legislative or federal cycles.

Economic Responsibility: Preventive care is the most effective way to lower long-term healthcare costs. According to the Oregon Division of Financial Regulation, providing these services without cost-sharing removes barriers that often lead to more expensive emergency interventions later.

Predictability for Families: Families deserve to know that their "preventive" benefits will remain consistent. Codifying these standards provides much-needed financial and medical predictability for every resident covered by a state-regulated plan.

I respectfully request that you champion this measure to ensure that Oregon remains a leader in proactive public health. Thank you for your time and for your dedicated service to our district.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,
Cyndi Vipperman