

Submitter: Ciarra Larkin  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

I am writing to express my strong and unequivocal opposition to SB 1598.

This bill grants sweeping authority to a state public health officer to issue a standing order that all Oregonians would be subject to, regardless of individual medical circumstances, personal beliefs, or consent. That is an unacceptable expansion of government power into personal healthcare decisions.

The state does not make decisions on behalf of my medical care. My doctor and I do. Period.

Healthcare is personal, individualized, and deeply connected to bodily autonomy and informed consent. A blanket standing order imposed by a state official undermines the foundational principles of medical ethics, patient rights, and personal liberty. This sets a dangerous precedent that erodes trust in public health institutions and opens the door to government control over private medical choices.

My body, my choice is not just a slogan—it is a principle of autonomy that must apply consistently. Oregonians should not be forced to comply with broad, top-down health directives without individualized assessment, consent, or due process.

Public health officials can provide guidance and recommendations, but they should not have unilateral power to impose medical decisions on every resident of this state. That is not public health—that is overreach.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 1598 and defend Oregonians' right to make their own healthcare decisions in consultation with their healthcare providers—not government bureaucrats.

Sincerely,  
Ciarra Larkin  
Oregon City OR