

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

My name is Suzanne and I am a resident of Hillsboro. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1598.

While I understand the intent of protecting healthcare access, I am concerned that this bill, as currently drafted, creates significant risks for Oregonians in the following ways:

Unelected Authority: SB 1598 grants the state Public Health Officer broad, unilateral power to mandate insurance coverage for any immunization they recommend. This bypasses the traditional legislative process and removes essential checks and balances over our healthcare system.

Cost of Living Concerns: By locking in 2025 federal mandates and allowing a state official to add new ones at will, this bill threatens to drive up insurance premiums for families and small businesses during a time when many are already struggling with rising costs.

Liability and Safety: The provision for "standing orders" allows for the dispensing of medications without an individual doctor-patient relationship. While this is intended for speed, it risks patient safety by removing a layer of medical oversight and provides broad immunity that limits patient recourse in the event of an error.

Lack of Transparency: Significant policy shifts regarding our state's healthcare mandates should be handled through a more transparent, deliberate process rather than being fast-tracked through standing orders and administrative recommendations.

I respectfully urge the committee to vote NO on SB 1598 and instead focus on solutions that protect patient safety and healthcare affordability without consolidating power in a single administrative office.