



CHILDREN'S HEALTH *alliance*

Date: February 9, 2026

To: Senator Deb Patterson, Chair and Senator Cedric Hayden Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Deborah Rumsey, Executive Director, Children's Health Alliance
Resa Bradeen, Medical Director, Children's Health Alliance

Subject: SB 1598 – Access to Preventive Healthcare

The Children's Health Alliance pediatricians care for approximately 190,000 children and their families in the Portland metro area and Salem and are committed to improving the health of all Oregon's children. Together, our pediatricians serve over 52,000 Medicaid members and function as patient-centered medical homes value that prioritize preventive care as a cornerstone of child health.

Preventive care, including immunizations for children and adolescents, is a core component of the pediatric primary care and is essential to maintaining healthy communities. Immunizations are a well-established, evidence-based tool for preventing disease and supporting population health. Oregonians should not experience higher costs, delays or new barriers to preventive services due to changes in federal guidance.

SB 1598 ensures continuity of access to evidence-based preventive care.

Recent federal policy changes affected access to certain vaccines, and some have introduced requirements for prescriptions to access the vaccines. These changes were not accompanied by new safety data and resulted in confusion and delays for patients, families and providers. Oregon acted to address these impacts on a temporary basis; however, current statute limits the state's ability to respond quickly and consistently when similar changes occur.

SB 1598 provides Oregon with needed flexibility to maintain access to preventive services when supported by established clinical evidence. The bill authorizes the State Public Health Officer to issue standing orders for public health purposes, reducing unnecessary administrative barriers while preserving appropriate clinical oversight. SB 1598 also updates insurance coverage standards to ensure continued coverage of widely supported, evidence-based preventive services and to reduce disruption caused by later changes in federal recommendations.

SB 1598 does not mandate vaccines, limit patient choice, or interfere with clinicians' medical judgment. Rather, it supports clear, consistent access to preventive care and allows patients and providers to make informed decisions together. The bill also promotes alignment with neighboring West Coast states, supporting regional consistency in access to preventive health services.



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As federal preventive care policy continues to evolve, SB 1598 provides a prudent framework for Oregon to sustain access to critical preventive services for children. Our pediatric practices remain committed to delivering care consistent with the evidence-based immunization schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

From the perspective of pediatric primary care, SB 1598 offers essential tools to support child health and ensure ongoing access to preventive care for Oregon families.

We respectfully urge your support for SB 1598.