

Submitter:

Tricia Hafner

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1598

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and Members of the Committee;

My name is Tricia Hafner, and I am writing as an Oregon mother to respectfully express my opposition to SB 1598.

As a parent, my top priority is the health and well-being of my children. I strongly support access to quality health care and preventive services for families across Oregon. However, I am deeply concerned about the scope of authority this bill grants and the potential long-term impact it could have on medical decision-making for families like mine.

SB 1598 appears to allow preventive services and immunizations to be expanded based on future determinations and gives broad standing-order authority to public health leadership. While I understand the importance of public health preparedness, decisions that affect medical care for families should include strong guardrails, transparency, and clear legislative oversight to maintain public trust.

As a mother, I am particularly concerned about:

- The possibility that future preventive services or immunizations could be added without direct legislative approval.
- The potential for standing medical orders to be issued broadly instead of being carefully tailored to specific risks or emergencies.
- Ensuring strong protections for informed consent and parent involvement in medical decisions for their children.

Oregon has always valued both strong public health systems and individual rights. I respectfully urge lawmakers to consider amendments that would:

- Require legislative review for major expansions of mandated coverage.
- Strengthen transparency and public reporting requirements.
- Protect patient choice, parental rights, and provider discretion.

Oregon has always said that medical decisions should be between a doctor and patient and I would like to see legislation that improves and respects this relationship. This bill seems to break that relationship and turn it over to an unelected board.

I respectfully ask you to oppose SB 1598 in its current form or amend it to better balance public health goals with family medical autonomy and accountability.

Thank you for your time and for your service to Oregon families.

Sincerely,

Tricia Hafner  
Stayton, OR