

Submitter: Leslie Fager  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598  
Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge your support for Senate Bill 1598. I believe preventative care is a common-sense priority because it builds long-term wellness, protects our neighbors, and costs the system far less than treating a medical crisis or illness.

My interest in this bill stems from a frustrating experience my family had last fall. When federal COVID-19 vaccine recommendations changed, we were met with a confusing mess of information. We wanted to stay protected, but we couldn't get a straight answer on where to go, whether we needed a prescription, or if we'd be hit with high out-of-pocket costs.

It was so difficult to find answers in Oregon that we actually considered taking time off of work to drive across the border to Washington just to get vaccinated. That delay happened at the worst possible time right at the start of peak infection season. Unfortunately, my story is common. Instead of being able to stop by a local pharmacy at a convenient time, many Oregonians were left in limbo, trying to do the right thing for their health while navigating a system that seemed to be working against them.

I want to be clear: this bill is not a mandate. It doesn't change the relationship between a doctor and a patient. It simply removes the red tape and extra time required that causes delays in care. People who want to access immunizations should have the freedom to do so without jumping through hoops or paying high out-of-pocket costs. This bill is about giving Oregonians the choice to manage their health efficiently.

Please support Senate Bill 1598.

Thank you,  
Leslie Fager