

Submitter: Mark Retzlaff
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

My name is Mark Retzlaff, MPH I am writing to voice my support of this SB 1598. I work in pediatric primary care and I am proud to work with our public health agencies, insurers, healthcare providers, and communities to ensure that children in Oregon receive the highest quality, researched-backed health care.

It is important that individuals and families continue to have access to evidence-based vaccinations covered by their insurance plans. Already, I have seen tremendous fear and confusion in our families about their access to vaccines as the federal government has elevated misinformation and fear-mongering about vaccine safety. This legislation protects Oregonians' access to safe and effective vaccines, allowing families and health care providers to make the decisions that are right for the individuals involved. Hysterics about "vaccine mandates" fundamentally misunderstand the legislation and what "standing orders" authorize. Oregon already has very accommodating policy regarding non-medical vaccine exemptions and this bill would not change that policy or grant new authority to change it.

Oregon public health leaders have earned our trust, and this bill is necessary for this moment. Please stand with Oregon families and support this bill.