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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

I feel strongly about medical autonomy, and that's why I overwhelmingly SUPPORT Senate Bill 1598. Oregonians deserve access to vaccines and preventive healthcare, so that each person can make the decision to protect themselves and their communities, free of the barriers of cost or availability.

As part of my work, I help people navigate vaccine resources in the Portland metropolitan area. I have seen firsthand the situations in which people have the decision to vaccinate taken from them, due to lack of insurance coverage, lack of clarity in federal recommendations, or other structural barriers. SB 1598 offers a solution.

Vaccine access is especially important in the wake of nationwide vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. Since January 2025, there have been more than 3000 cases of measles in the U.S., linked to 45 jurisdictions including Oregon. More than 90% of cases have been unvaccinated, and 269 have been hospitalized. NOBODY deserves to be hospitalized for a preventable illness. This is an opportunity to strengthen Oregon's public health preparedness, in the face of very real threats.

SB 1598 does not threaten anyone's medical autonomy, it protects it. Thank you.