

Submitter: TJ Anderson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

My name is TJ Anderson, and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 1598 and evidence-based practices in our state. I am a Pediatrician and Chief Medical Information Officer and ensuring access to immunizations is important to me because the evidence shows that immunizations lessen disease burden and saves lives.

For example, this past fall, when COVID immunizations required a prescription for families to get it at a pharmacy, we saw a 43% (8734 vs 4996) decrease in inoculations in Sept & Oct of the 2024 vs 2025 season, respectively. In the same vein, we saw 955 encounters with COVID-related illness in Q4 of 2025, compared to only 379 in Q4 of 2024. This represents a 2.5x increase year over year increase in COVID-related diagnoses in the same quarter. Placing barriers for families that are choosing to receive preventative care such as immunizations will place those at highest risk or unable to get care due to social factors at risk of disease and death.

This bill is an important step to ensure Oregonians have the choice to access vaccines and that barriers to care are removed. I urge your support of Senate Bill 1598.

TJ Anderson, MD
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