

Submitter:

Lee Jones

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1598

Call for written testimony to support vaccine access in OR! Needed by TOMORROW 2/11 at 3pm. Draft language in bold at the bottom!

Thank you to Lisa Reynolds for championing this bill!

We need your help championing vaccine access for ALL Oregonians by submitting written testimony in support of SB1598. 90% of the written testimony is by anti-vaxxers who didn't even read the bill and are saying untrue inflammatory things. Its important we let the Senate Healthcare Committee know we do not want financial or logistical barriers to preventative immunization in Oregon.

SB1598 is being championed by the Oregon Medical Association, the Oregon Pediatric Society, and the state health officer and insurance officer.

SB1598:

- Ensures patients won't have to pay out of pocket for preventative vaccines. Insurance payments will not be vulnerable to the changing and confusing federal #immunization landscape. Insurance coverage of recommended vaccines can be mandated by the state, not federal guidelines
- Ensures certain vaccines like seasonal flu and covid remain available and convenient at pharmacies. New federal recommendations would REQUIRE a doctors appointment for shared decision making, an enormous barrier for many and impossible for PCPs to accommodate. This would allow the health authorities in Oregon to remove that barrier

SB1598 does NOT:

- mandate vaccines. This just supports vaccine access to those who want them!
- prevent anyone from seeking shared decision making. This just ensures that folks who have already chosen vaccines can get them easily and at no cost

My name is Dr. Lee Anna Jones and I am a physician who is worried about vaccine affordability and access in Oregon. I support SB1598 to ensure that Oregon families do not have additional cost or logistical barriers to obtaining preventative vaccines. This bill champions patient choice, by ensuring those who want immunizations are able to do so without having to worry about payment or making a hard to come by appointment with their primary care physician or pediatrician to undergo mandatory shared decision making.

SB1598:

- Protects access to preventive care. SB 1598 helps ensure Oregonians can continue to access evidence-based preventive services without new barriers or delays.
- Responds to recent federal changes. Shifting federal guidance in 2025 limited access to certain immunizations, creating confusion for patients and providers without being based on new safety or efficacy data.
- Ensures continuity of coverage. Updating Oregon's insurance code to June 30, 2025 preserves coverage for widely supported, evidence-based preventive services.
- Supports patient choice. SB 1598 does not mandate immunizations or require anyone to receive care.
- Allows Oregon to act nimbly. Standing order authority gives the state tools to respond quickly when federal guidance changes and access is at risk.
- Respects medical judgment. Providers may continue to practice according to evidence-based recommendations and their clinical expertise.
- Keeps decisions between patients and providers. SB 1598 reinforces science-based care while maintaining flexibility and trust in the clinician-patient relationship.

Thank you,  
Lee Anna Jones M.D.