

Submitter:

Marie Green

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1598

I oppose this bill and respectfully ask you to vote No.

I believe that medical decision-making should be made based on each individual's needs. Medical decision-making is complex and should remain in the hands of the physician and patient alone. Additionally, parent's rights should not be stripped away.

The summary of this plan is noted with an \* and my response follows:

\* Updates the preventive health services that must be covered by some health benefit plans. Gives the Public Health Officer the power to make some health benefit plans provide coverage for vaccines.

Because of this action insurance companies will simply raise rates which will cost ordinary citizens who struggle because of the economic climate in Oregon. Or, if that isn't bad enough, they will simply leave Oregon like so many other businesses.

\* Gives the Public Health Officer the power to issue a standing order for a prescription.

Because of the complexity of each individual health situation the doctor patient relationship is vital to the overall health of the patient. To "blanket" availability to medications, or other forms of health care could be detrimental to many individuals without primary physician or specialist overview.

\* Takes effect when the Governor signs it. (Flesch Readability Score: 62.4).

This could cause great medical harm brought about by you if you vote this in.

\* Requires certain health benefit plans to provide coverage for preventive health services in accordance with federal rules in effect on June 30, 2025, and immunizations recommended by the Public Health Officer in the future. Authorizes the Public Health Officer, or designated physician, to issue a standing order for a prescription to control, prevent, mitigate or treat any infectious or noninfectious disease or other significant public health concern.

A public health officer, or designated physician, are not elected officials. This seems like a an extreme designation of power for one person(s). For one unelected person to have power over the citizens of Oregon just isn't right, and makes that person the

ruler over Oregonians when it comes to our healthcare. Also, when we the people of Oregon cannot recall such a person this takes our voice away.

\* Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

I question why an emergency needs to be declared upon passage. Since this bill is declared an emergency and an emergency clause makes the law effective immediately, are you wanting to limit the time available for citizens to gather signatures for a referral?