

Submitter: John Cuddeback

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

I'm a retired physician, and I'm proud to have helped to lead a national campaign on adult immunization: <https://www.amga.org/rise-to-immunize>.

Over several years, I had the opportunity to work with experts from CDC in connection with the campaign, and I developed tremendous respect for their dedication to making unbiased recommendations, based on solid scientific evidence.

In terms of public perception, vaccines are a victim of their own success. When I was young, every parent lived in fear of polio, and many children were paralyzed for life. I still recall the sense of relief and gratitude that nearly everyone felt for the early Salk and Sabin vaccines. Today, it's easy to take the protection we collectively enjoy for granted.

A big reason my wife and I chose to retire in Oregon is the greater sense here that "we're all in this together." That's especially true with infectious disease. Vaccines protect not just the individual but also the community.

Practically, access to vaccines depends on funding and infrastructure that the federal government is currently seeking to diminish or dismantle. We need to do everything possible to replace and strengthen this infrastructure at the state level.

I support this bill because it will protect vaccine access for Oregonians in the face of these threats.