

Submitter: Tim Vogt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598
To Oregon Elected Officials,

I urge you to oppose SB 1598.

This bill grants broad authority to unelected public health officials to make sweeping decisions that affect all Oregonians—without additional legislative oversight or public debate. In light of the serious failures of public health governance during the COVID era, expanding centralized power without accountability is deeply concerning. I strongly oppose SB 1598.

Centralized decision-making without accountability undermines parental rights, informed consent, medical discretion, and bodily autonomy. This is not anti-medicine, it's about *who decides*—and under what safeguards.

Since 2020, it has become clear that many public health decisions, from the global level down to local authorities, failed to adequately weigh harms, scientific uncertainty, and individual well-being. Policies such as prolonged school closures, extreme lockdowns, and blanket masking mandates—including outdoor masking—were implemented despite limited or contradictory scientific support, and in some cases in contradiction to existing OSHA and EPA research. The long-term consequences for children and families—from developmental delays to increased anxiety and depression—are still unfolding.

SB 1598 raises specific and serious concerns, including:

****Automatic Mandates:**** Enables vaccine or medical requirements tied to school access without further legislative approval.

****One-Size-Fits-All Compliance:**** Authorizes statewide medical orders that disregard individual risk, consent, or medical history.

****Taxpayer-Funded Mandates:**** Requires insurers and public programs to cover mandated treatments without sufficient flexibility to respond to emerging evidence or updated standards of care.

****Erosion of Medical Judgment:**** Limits physicians' ability to exercise individualized clinical decision-making in the best interest of their patients.

Public health must be grounded in trust, transparency, and accountability—not one-size-fits-all blanket healthcare or health "prevention" strategies and legislation that disregard important concerns of individuals and families.

Please think deeply about the broader implications of this legislation.