

Submitter: William Vollmer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

I am writing today to submit testimony to support SB1598. I spent my entire career conducting research in the health sciences field. I believe in and trust science, and am appalled at the growing skepticism about vaccine safety in the country, especially in light of the guidance being issued by the current US administration.

People seem to lack a basic understanding of Public Health and the concept of herd immunity, and we as a society seem to have forgotten in the not too distant past when so many terrible communicable diseases were not well controlled.

We are now beginning to see the re-emergence of some of these diseases, and the problem will only worsen. SB1598 seems to me to be sound Public Health policy. Not that this bill does not mandate vaccines, much as I might wish it did. Rather it is a bill that addresses access by making vaccines a required benefit of health plans. It does not mandate vaccines. It does not limit a provider's choice of treatment nor limit a patient's choice.

I heartily support increasing access to vaccines. This bill will do that in two important ways. This bill is a service to the people of Oregon.