

Submitter: Marianne Parshley
On Behalf Of: My patients and community
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

Representative Rob Nosse, Chair, and Members of the House Health Care Committee

As a primary care general internal medicine physician of 30+ years, I am writing to ask for your support for SB 1598.

SB 1598 requires that certain health benefit plans cover (pay for) preventive services, in particular vaccines, should a person chose to receive them.

People still have full freedom to decline vaccines and other preventive services. Their freedom to choose remains.

However, if they choose the preventive services, this means that their insurance must pay for it. The cost of vaccines being one of the most common barriers to immunization in our country and state, this removes both a personal and public health for those who choose.

By allowing pharmacists to administer immunizations under standing orders, SB 1598 also facilitates the delivery of vaccines which are recommended.

This streamlining does three things:

- 1) It means we can easily and safely provide the vaccines which people choose in their communities, rather than requiring an office visit to a clinic.
- 2) It helps maintain access to healthcare by reducing the need to use clinician time just for routine vaccinations when no other care is needed.
- 3) It eases the work load of clinical teams on the front line by facilitating an interprofessional team based approach with our pharmacist colleagues.

What SB 1598 does NOT do is require, mandate or force people to accept the offered and covered preventive services. It simply removes barriers to preventive care, to immunization, and supports patients choosing those services. It keeps preventive care decisions between patients and the clinicians they trust who are caring for them using science-based shared decision making and removes barriers to care.

Finally, as we have sadly seen in 2020-2024, a rapid response to public health threats can be life saving for our communities. SB1598 supports this public health work.

Please support SB 1598 for the sake of patient choice and personal/community health in Oregon.

Marianne Parshley, MD MACP