

Submitter: Amelia Barton
On Behalf Of: Parents and children of Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

Dear House Committee on Health Care, Chair Rep. Rob Nosse, and Vice Chairs Rep. Ed Diehl, and Rep. Travis Nelson:

As a longtime Democrat and Beaverton resident, I strongly urge you to oppose SB1598. This bill enriches pharmaceutical companies at Oregon taxpayer expense, and grants unchecked power and sweeping immunity to unelected “public health” officials.

Top Reasons to Reject SB1598:

1. Unelected power broker – SB1598 gives the state’s Public Health Officer the power to create new insurance mandates automatically. That hands an unelected bureaucrat huge influence over which medical immunization products and services every Oregonian must pay for without a single vote in the legislature. Public policy decisions this big should never bypass elected representatives.
2. Pharmaceutical Company Profits at Taxpayers Expense – the cost of these immunizations doesn’t go away – it gets transferred to taxpayers, including those who pay for the Oregon Health plan, and families paying higher premiums for private insurance. In the end, it is Oregon taxpayers who pay the bill – giving pharmaceutical companies huge profits through state mandates, and increasing individual health care costs.
3. Lack of liability and accountability – This bill would grant civil, criminal and professional immunity to the public health officer (and doctors) related to the issuance of this order. This means they have zero accountability to the efficacy and safety of the order. This is unacceptable. We cannot have state-wide recommendations with zero liability and accountability.
4. Conflicts of Interest – The bill forces insurance companies to cover every vaccine or service recommended by the state health department. Many of those recommendations come from scientific and medical organizations that take money directly vaccine manufacturers (such as the American Academy of Pediatrics).
 - a. If the same companies that profit from vaccine sales also influence which vaccines get recommended, that’s a conflict of interest.
 - b. Several Oregon Representatives and Senators have received political

funding from vaccine manufacturers who stand to benefit significantly from this bill. That's a conflict of interest.

c. As doctors often receive considerable bonuses based on vaccine administration, Doctors – including the sponsor of this bill, Dr Lisa REYNOLDS -- could receive significant bonuses from this bill. That's a conflict of interest.

This bill also still clears the way for statewide “orders” in a one-size-fits-all approach to medical care attention to individual medical needs, and the sacred relationship between a doctor and his/her patients.

The approach of this bill not in the best interest of Oregonians. I urge you to vote no on SB1589.

Amelia Barton
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