

Submitter: Stephanie Toder
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

Dear Oregon legislators,

I am writing as a pediatrician practicing in Clackamas County who is deeply invested in the health of our children in support of Senate Bill 1598. The urgency my colleagues and I feel about the content of the law under consideration cannot be overstated. We are in the midst of a heavy flu season and measles is now spreading within our state, and yet families do not have guaranteed access to vaccines administered at pharmacies.

Vaccines as an essential part of preventive care are a cornerstone of how we keep our children healthy in this state. I am pleased that the West Coast Health Alliance has continued to endorse appropriate routine preventive vaccinations despite recent CDC upheaval. I would love to be able to see and have prolonged discussions with every family about the benefits of vaccines and address any questions or concerns that they have prior to administering. Happily, I still have the option to do so with any families who do have worries, contraindications, or simply questions about any given vaccine. For the remainder of families who would like to have more convenient vaccine access at pharmacies or have previously discussed vaccination plans with me the current state of affairs poses an unnecessary barrier to care.

As a pediatrician, I strive every day to answer parent concerns regarding the day-to-day health, injuries, and illnesses of children in our state. My time can only be split in so many directions between direct patient care and virtual or telephone-based advice provision. It is incredibly burdensome for pediatric practices to be required to send individual prescriptions for any routine vaccine administered to a child who would benefit from it. Based on recent changes to our national vaccine schedule numerous shots require "shared decision making" per the CDC- which deviates from the evidence based recommendations from the West Coast Health Alliance and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Oregon by contrast should lead the way in preserving evidence based preventive vaccine access. No one is being forced to receive vaccines without the opportunity to discuss it with their doctor, but without this bill vaccine access will be greatly impeded.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Toder, MD