

Submitter: Kathryn Wiltz  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

My name is Kathryn Wiltz, and I am a high school student in Portland. I am writing to urge you to support and pass Senate Bill 1598 because it will significantly strengthen healthcare access in the state of Oregon. SB 1598's importance lies in the security and stability. It creates a safe medical accessibility to Oregonians by ensuring essential medications and services without unnecessary delays or un-needed barriers. When people can receive care early, they are more likely to stay healthy, avoid preventable emergencies, and reduce long-term medical costs for themselves and the state. This bill would have a substantial impact on both women's and men's health by improving access to contraception, maternal health resources, vaccinations, preventive care, treatment for infections, chronic diseases, and mental health disorders. As a young woman, I know this bill is especially important for young men and women in this generation and those to come. Reliable and safe access to preventive and reproductive healthcare directly affects our ability to pursue education, maintain employment, and plan for our futures. Without timely and urgent medical care, small health concerns can quickly turn into lifelong medical and financial burdens. Passing SB 1598 is an urgent investment in Oregon's long-term public health, and medical equity. I strongly urge you to support this bill and protect the health and future of Oregonians.