

Submitter: Justin Jones
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today as Dr. Justin Jones from Roseburg.

In response to the question about Section 2(5)(a) and trusting the Public Health Officer to solicit local health officer input: Subsection (5)(b) immediately nullifies that requirement. It states that input is not required whenever the Public Health Officer (or designated physician) unilaterally determines that soliciting it 'would result in a delay that is likely to endanger the public health.' This self-judging waiver makes the local-input step optional in practice, undermining the very safeguard (5)(a) appears to create.

This is precisely why I oppose the broad standing-order authority in Section 2. Rural clinicians and local health officers need real, enforceable consultation — not a process that can be bypassed at will.

I urge the committee to strike or substantially amend Section 2 before recommending the bill.

Respectfully,
Dr. Justin Jones
Roseburg, Oregon