

Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Diehl, Vice Chair Nelson and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Justin Jones, and I'm a dentist from Roseburg, Oregon in Douglas County. I'm testifying today in strong opposition to SB 1598, especially Section 2.

Chair, this is the Preventive-Care Trojan Horse: popular vaccine language on the outside, broad government standing-order power on the inside.

I have personally experienced a similar problem like this bill would introduce. I worked in dental practices in the Roseburg area that, to patients, appeared to be local offices. In reality, they had been quietly brought under the management of an out-of-state Dental Service Organization. The local branding stayed, but many operational decisions moved far away. This shift toward external management weakens the local clinician autonomy that rural Oregon families rely on.

This bill does the same thing from government. It gives one appointed Public Health Officer broad power to issue standing orders for any drug or device for any 'significant public health concern' — infectious or noninfectious — with very limited local input and sweeping immunity. This bypasses the licensed professionals who treat patients every day in rural communities, while opening the gate for unfettered state control.

I support access to preventive care and immunizations. However, we should not hand statewide prescribing authority to Salem while we already struggle with distant corporate oversight of local practices, which is on display very publicly in Eugene with PeaceHealth.

As I am applying to law school as a second career, if accepted this cycle, it will be because I want to fight these quiet erosions of local control — whether from private equity, out-of-state corporations, or expanded state power.

The focus to me should be on making sure the costs of vaccinations are covered for all who choose to get them.

I urge you to strike or heavily amend Section 2 or recommend that the bill do not pass in its current form. Please keep healthcare decisions with the licensed clinicians and patients who live and work here in rural Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.