

Submitter: Jennifer Hill
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598

I feel very strongly that families that want vaccines should have access to them and they should be covered by insurance, however SB 1598 sets the stage for more mandates. Consider adopting the amendment Sen Hayden put forward to the Senate Health Committee as it would remedy this situation.

The following shows why SB 1598 should not be passed as written.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

SB1598 would force insurance plans to cover every vaccine or service recommended by the state health department. Many of those recommendations come from organizations like the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) — a group that takes money from vaccine manufacturers.

If the same companies that profit from vaccine sales also influence which vaccines get recommended, that's a conflict of interest. Oregonians deserve policies based on full-spectrum independent science, not corporate funding.

REGULATORY CAPTURE

If insurance companies are required to pay for every product recommended by groups tied to industry (like the AAP), private corporations will effectively shape state spending. That's regulatory capture — when regulators serve industry interests instead of the public. Oregon can do better than that.

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 products and services every Oregonian must pay for — all without a single vote in the legislature. Public policy decisions this big should never bypass elected representatives.

What Oregon Law SHOULD Do

To protect transparency, independence, and public trust, Oregon law should:

- Require the legislature to review and approve new insurance mandates.
- Demand full transparency about financial conflicts of interest.
- Stop laws that enrich private companies through state mandates.

Senators Hayden and Linthicum worked hard to introduce an amendment that would have preserved medical freedoms, though it was not adopted during the committee

work session. Consider sponsoring this amendment.