



26 February 2026

To the House Committee on Health Care:

We support SB 1598 to ensure Oregon's children have access to evidence-based, life-saving vaccines.

Pediatric Associates of the Northwest is a community pediatric clinic in Portland, Beaverton, and Tigard. We serve children and adolescents with public insurance, i.e. Medicaid/Oregon Health Plan, and private/commercial insurance. Our patients rely on insurance to pay for vaccinations. Without this coverage, vaccinations would be prohibitively expensive for most Oregonians, resulting in severe under-immunization and would put kids at risk for life-threatening, vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, tetanus, and polio.

SB 1598 preserves the availability of vaccines to those who choose to get vaccinated and will help maintain the freedom for Oregon's youth to attend school without the threat of exposure to vaccine-preventable diseases.

We urge your support of SB 1598.

Sincerely,

Bruce Birk, MD, FAAP  
Kayla Buker, MD, FAAP  
Mari Kay Evans-Smith, MD, FAAP  
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