



MEMORANDUM

To: Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
Sen. Dennis Linthicum, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Courtni Dresser, Director of Government Relations

Date: February 18, 2019

Re: SB 649

Federal law currently requires that physicians and other healthcare providers give patients vaccine information when a vaccine is administered. The Vaccine Information Statement (VIS), prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is given to the patient (or guardian) at the time the vaccine is administered. The VIS is a formal description of the vaccine, its benefits and associated risks, and instructs patients to ask the healthcare provider for additional information, such as the manufacturer's package insert.

Senate Bill 649 is duplicative as written and will only create additional administrative burdens to the provider and take time away from the physician-patient relationship. It creates an administrative hurdle that will result in delayed or abandoned care and lower immunization rates as a result. During a current outbreak of measles in the Oregon and Washington area, lowering the rate of immunization rates is the last thing the Oregon Legislature should be considering. The science is very clear that vaccines work and save lives.

Additionally, this bill would change the legal age for medical consent for vaccinations from 15 to 18. Oregon law sets the legal age for medical consent at 15, which allows for teens to make informed decisions for themselves regarding whether to access medical treatment. It would be dangerous to change this and set precedent for other areas of medical care.

SB 649 does not fix or solve a problem. It adds unnecessary administrative burdens and disrupts care. For these reasons we are opposing Senate Bill 649.

The Oregon Medical Association serves and supports over 8,000 physicians, physician assistants and student members in their efforts to improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.