

**LISA REYNOLDS, MD**  
**STATE SENATOR**  
**District 17**



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

**June 19th, 2025**

**Obadiah “Obie” Rutledge**

Secretary of the Senate  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Vote Explanation for Senate Bill 174**

Dear Secretary Rutledge,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my explanation of why I voted against Senate Bill 174.

At a time when Oregon’s healthcare system is already under tremendous strain—from federal budget cuts, ongoing political attacks on healthcare and women’s reproductive health, as well as state budget reductions — this bill threatens to accelerate a growing crisis.

SB 174 was developed without the input of frontline healthcare providers. And while amendments were added in the Judiciary, they did not fully address the real and immediate harm this bill would inflict. It allows third parties to sue both doctors and insurers—even over administrative delays where no bad faith occurred—turning regulatory guidelines into legal liabilities. These types of provisions have been rejected in other states because they fuel unnecessary lawsuits, drive up insurance costs, and ultimately hurt patients and providers alike. I believe SB 174 will result in more time spent in court for doctors, higher malpractice insurance rates, and reduced access to care for patients, and that is why I rise in opposition.

States that considered similar laws have rejected them for good reason. They lead to skyrocketing premiums, physician shortages, and reduced access to essential care, especially in rural and underserved areas. And let’s not forget: Oregon already has strong consumer protections in place, including oversight from the insurance commissioner and remedies affirmed by the state’s Supreme Court.

Make no mistake: SB 174 would further strain our already fragile healthcare infrastructure. It would drive up costs for providers and patients alike.

With so much at stake—especially for vulnerable communities already facing barriers to care—now is not the time to pile on more uncertainty, risk, and cost.

I respectfully oppose this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Sincerely,

Senator Lisa Reynolds, MD  
Senate District 17