



Senate Majority Office

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Senate Democrats Expand Access to Preventative Care and Support the Health Care Workforce

SALEM, Ore - Today the Oregon senate passed a suite of bills to support the healthcare workforce and expand access to vital preventative care for Oregonians.

[House Bill 2278](#) which will allow pharmacists to administer the flu vaccine to kids six months of age or older. Currently, kids between the ages of six months and seven years need an office visit to be vaccinated.

Since 2002, annual flu shots have been recommended starting at 6 months of age. The Oregon Health Authority reports that [only 27% of Oregon children](#) under 18 years of age received a flu vaccine as of January 4, 2023.

“House Bill 2278 reflects our unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of Oregon's children,” said **Senator Deb Patterson (D - Salem), Chair of the Senate Committee on Healthcare**. “This legislation ensures that families can protect their loved ones without the burden of extra office visits, allowing us to foster a healthier and more resilient community. Together, we can safeguard our youngest population and build a brighter, healthier future for Oregon.”

[House Bill 2486](#) allows pharmacy technicians to administer vaccines under the supervision of a pharmacist. This builds off the successful work of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in distributing COVID-19 vaccinations. Pharmacies are vital sources of primary care in rural and remote parts of the state and expanding options for primary care like vaccines is essential to keeping every Oregonian safe and healthy.

“Growing up in rural Oregon, I know the challenges many communities have to overcome in accessing basic health services,” said **Senator Wlinsvey Campos (D - Aloha)**. “Making an appointment with a provider and driving hours for a vaccine is not practical for many families.

Oregonians deserve to access health care in their own communities, and pharmacies are some of our most widespread and accessible health care providers.”

[House Bill 2921](#) which requires Oregon hospitals to share the reports and data collected for the federal government on race, ethnicity, sex and job category of their workforce with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI). BOLI is then directed to share the data on their website. This information will help Oregon develop a health care workforce that reflects our people and meets the needs of every community.

“Oregonians deserve a healthcare workforce that reflects and understands the diversity of our communities. We know that culturally appropriate care goes hand in hand with positive health outcomes,” said **Senator Kayse Jama (D - Portland)**. “We need good data about the diversity of today’s workforce to understand how we can break down barriers for the next generation of health care workers.”

Supporting access to healthcare is part of [Senate Democrats’ 2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

HB 2278, HB 2486, and HB 2921 are some of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, these bills now head to the Governor’s desk for consideration.

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