



VOTE YES on HOUSE BILL 3276A

HB 3276A helps to assure that important preventative treatments are widely, promptly, and equitably available to everyone who needs them during infectious disease outbreaks.

In 2015, Oregon's public health departments collectively investigated 291 disease outbreaks, a 14% increase from 2014. And in the past five years, Oregon has experienced three meningococcal disease outbreaks that have occurred in Crook County (2012), Lane County at the University of Oregon (2015), and in Benton County at Oregon State University (2016-2017). These outbreaks have killed at least one person and permanently disabled several others.

While not every outbreak requires urgent preventive treatment, it is imperative that local health departments and their partners have the resources required to stop the spread of diseases like meningitis and measles that pose true public health threats. Students who receive vaccines provided by university health centers may be subject to out-of-pocket expenses unless they find an external provider or return to their home clinician. Students are busy and sensitive to both time and cost – losing access to convenient, cost-effective care, plus the threat of out-of-pocket medical costs are real deterrents.

HB 3276A ensures that insurance companies, including coordinated care organizations, cannot refuse reimbursement claims by any provider organizations including Oregon college and university health clinics and public health departments. HB 3276 will clear barriers to the provision of essential infectious disease response and prevention services to protect the health of students on Oregon's college campuses. HB 3276 allows local health departments and college health centers do what they do best: Provide essential infectious disease response to at-risk populations.

We urge a YES vote on House Bill 3276A!

