

SUPPORT SB 274: College Student Vaccine Education Bill

We support SB 274 which requires Oregon colleges and universities to provide information to entering students on vaccine preventable diseases:

National Meningitis Association

Oregon Medical Association

Oregon Nurses Association

Oregon Student Association

Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon

Oregon Public Health Association

Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists

Lane County Medical Association

Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials

GSK and Sanofi Pasteur

SB 274 would require Oregon colleges and universities that offer housing to provide students entering for the first time with information on vaccine-preventable diseases that commonly occur in individuals between the ages of 16 and 21. The information would include:

- signs and symptoms of these diseases;
- how they are transmitted;
- recommendations from the CDC for prevention;
- information on any ACIP recommended vaccines.

SB 274 does NOT mandate vaccination. Nor does it specify the form in which this information must be presented or distributed to students and leaves the discretion entirely to the institution.

What types of vaccine-preventable diseases?

We are particularly concerned about the recent cluster of meningococcal meningitis cases on college campuses, including isolated but deadly cases over the past few years, which demonstrate how important it is to help protect college students through vaccination and vaccine education. In 2015 at the University of Oregon, we experienced a serious Meningitis B outbreak which took the life of a young student and athlete. An entry educational requirement for all ACIP recommended vaccines would be a strong step forward in student health and encouraging students to take control of their own health decisions.

SB 274 would ensure that all students living on campus in higher education settings are informed about all ACIP recommended vaccines for their age group, including meningococcal vaccines. This is especially important for vaccinations for all strains of meningitis because college students in communal living situations are considered at risk populations by the CDC. Colleges and universities would retain the flexibility and discretion to determine the best way to provide this information. As of January 2017, **34 states currently have an educational requirement** like the one required in this bill, or a school entry mandate for ACIP recommended vaccines, including meningococcal vaccination.