



# Capitol Dental Care, Inc.

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March 16, 2015

Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 672

Chair Senator Monnes-Anderson and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Deborah Loy, I am the Executive Director of Government Programs for Capitol Dental Care (CDC). We are a dental care organization that provides care to hundreds of thousands of Oregon Health Plan enrollees. I am here to testify in support of SB 672 with changes.

The 'Strategic Plan for Oral Health in Oregon 2014-2020' represents an expert consensus on the most potent and cost effective use of Oregon's limited resource. It identified the need for a State Dental Director as a key priority. Oregon recently hired a State Dental Director. This is a great 'first step' in support of a state level advocate and leader to ensure oral health is seen as an integral part of overall health in policy decisions, disease prevention strategies, and health care funding.

We as a state need to support our State Dental Director and his role. To do so, Oregon needs to appropriately staff, fund, and 'empower' him as an oral health leader consistent with the best practices of the Association of State Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD). Of critical importance to his success, his position within the Oregon Health Authority must be at a level in which he can influence policy making, and has decision making authority beyond cursory, advisory, recommending, or reporting only.

Capitol Dental Care supports SB 672 with language changes to strengthen the policy and oral health advocacy role our State Dental Director should have to be a truly effective leader in advancing oral health on behalf of all Oregonians.