

## Testimony to a Committee Hearing

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

For the record, my name is Lesley Harbison and I reside in Scappoose, Oregon. I am a faculty member at Pacific University School of Dental Hygiene Studies which is also the training site for Dental therapy pilot project 300. I am also a member of the Oregon Dental Hygienist Association.

I support senate bill 1549 because Dental therapists can have a significant impact for the access care issues around dental care in the state of Oregon. Those who lack access to dental care are often marginalized populations, children, and the elderly. These populations are vulnerable and deserve solutions that provide them with the care they desperately need and deserve. As an expanded practice dental hygienist working with the elderly I have seen firsthand the extensive decay and the need for a dentist in the nursing home setting. As a dental hygienist I can only do so much and I find it next to impossible to recruit a dentist to come and work with me in order to provide these much-needed services. Dental therapy is a solution that is feasible, affordable, and the right thing to do.

In summary, I ask for you to support the Senate Bill 1549 on behalf of the oral health of all Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Please feel free to contact me at [Lesley.harbison@pacificu.edu](mailto:Lesley.harbison@pacificu.edu). My office number is 503-352-7244.

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