

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2627

March 4, 2021

Chair Prusak and Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

For the record, my name is Gail Aamodt and I reside in Hillsboro OR. I am a dental hygienist and I work in a low income dental clinic that typically treats those that do not have dental insurance.

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2627 that would that would allow EPDHs to perform interim therapeutic restorations (ITR)

I have seen first-hand those that have experienced access to care issues:

1. Growing up poor, I was only able to see a dentist when I was ages 6 and 16. I had rampant decay and did not know how to prevent this. I believe that is why I went to hygiene school. I did not want others to experience what I had.

2. My granddaughter lost her father at the age of 7 and the family had to go on the Oregon Health Plan in Hood River Oregon. Due to dental offices not accepting her insurance or not willing to schedule her except on their "OHP" day, the 7 year old had a tooth that started with a simple cavity develop into an abscessed that swelled up into her face 3 times. My daughter in law phoned me to tell me the dental office of record would not see her. After the 3rd abscess, the permanent tooth was finally extracted in a very traumatic appointment. To me, this is criminal. Had a EPDH put in an ITR at the first visit when it was a simple cavity, this would not have occurred.

3. I teach dental hygiene students and we provide care to a very diverse population, most of whom do not have dental insurance or a dental home. We need more providers that can provide dental care to these individuals.

Please consider this bill to help those most in dental need.