

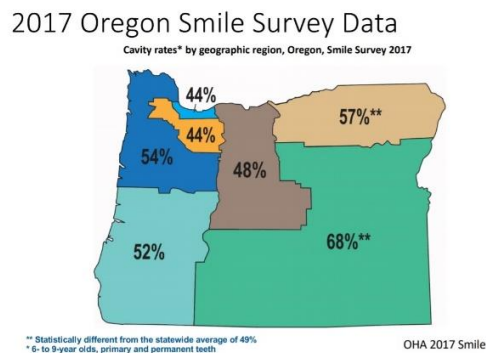


# The Alliance4Kids

March 3, 2021

## Statement in Support of HB2528 / Dental Therapy

Oral health is the unseen epidemic facing tens of thousands of Oregon youth and children. East and West, North and South, Urban and Rural - - all areas of Oregon are being impacted. And BIPOC children are at particular risk of going without critical oral care. This chart illustrates the severity of the problem:



Cavities, tooth decay and serious oral health issues are at crisis proportions in our state. These issues impact a child's overall health and wellbeing, as well as their ability to concentrate, learn, and succeed in school. Yet we are facing a shocking lack of providers for many of these children.

Oregon has fantastic dentists and dental hygienists. Unfortunately, there are not enough of them, and especially not enough in rural areas and areas of poverty, to be able to meet the significant need for basic services.

HB2528 is a simple solution, and one with a proven track record in other states. It adds another tool in our toolkit to be able to plug the workforce gaps and address the oral care issues facing Oregon's kids.

**Contact: Doug Riggs, [doug@nsrc.com](mailto:doug@nsrc.com)**