

February 26, 2021

House Committee on Health Care

900 Court Street NE

Salem, Oregon, 97301

Subject: Concern with HB 2528

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas,

I am a graduate of OHSU School of Dentistry and have been in private general practice for over 29 years in Portland, Oregon. During my professional career, I have participated in the Oregon Health Plan, Senior Smile program, Donated Dental Services, Mission of Mercy, Creston Clinic, Give Kids a smile and sealant screenings in Portland Public schools. These endeavors have been done voluntarily and with the intent to improve the oral health in my local community. Like many of my professional colleagues, I understand the challenges many underserved or marginalized Oregonians face with regards to affordability and access to Dental care. Creating a new dental provider in Oregon, as HB 2528 intends to do, seems like a well-intentioned idea to improve accessibility, however I have significant concerns over the current scope of this bill.

My concerns are: Lack of specific educational requirements, lack of direct supervision requirements, scope of care that exceeds the training required by the National Accredited Dental Therapy program (CODA), and lack of assurance that patient safety will be aligned with the current Oregon and national dental standards of care.

Please do not move this bill out of committee without substantial revisions to ensure patient safety.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Naughton, DMD

Portland, Oregon