

I am writing in support to HB2528 as written. As an indigenous person familiar with the history of the DHAT dental education programs conception and evolution (origin New Zealand nearly 3 decades ago) I understand and appreciate the benefits this program offers to the underserved segment of our society by providing quality dental care at an affordable cost. The New Zealand DHAT's program's success was why it was adopted by the Alaska Native Health Consortium (over 20 years ago) and introduced to educate and train Native people for the purpose of providing dental care to citizens in remote communities. The dominant society's outdated dental codes allow for the continued exploitation of disadvantaged and underserved citizens within our State. The Oregon Board of Dentistry standards are not unique. DHAT's are well educated, field trained and supervised to administer similar fields of discipline to dental patients. These high standards are why DHAT's can provide quality dental care at an affordable cost. It is time to approve HB2528, Oregon DHAT's can provide quality dental care to our tribal citizens at a reduced cost to taxpaying citizens.