

Douglas Young, DDS, EdD, MBA, MS

Testimony before Oregon State Legislature - House Committee on Health Care

Re: Strongly Supporting HB 2528

March 4, 2021

Dear Chairperson Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and Committee Members,

As a dentist whose new home is in Oregon and a Professor Emeritus for University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, former clinical instructor for the Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program, former ADA Cariology consultant and past member of the ADA Council of Scientific Affairs, and current MID Program Director at Sea Mar Community Health Centers, I am pleased to share with you my reasons for strongly supporting HB 2528.

I spent 23 years instructing dental students at the University of the Pacific, Dugoni School of Dentistry, one of the top dental schools in the country. I have served the ADA as an accreditation site visitor. I was subsequently an instructor for dental therapy students at the Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program (ADTEP). I was present for the ADA accreditation site visit at ADTEP in Alaska and know exactly what is taught compared to what is taught at a dental school. I have read opponents arguments suggesting patient care given by a dental therapist would not be safe and that dental therapist shouldn't be allowed to diagnose, read radiographs. These statements are simply are not factual. I can report that students at both institutions (dental and dental therapy) were held to the same high clinical standard of care mandated by ADA accreditation. In fact I was highly impressed by the high quality of education at the dental therapy program which in my opinion clearly surpassed the attention given at most dental schools when it comes to serving underserved populations.

Students at ADTEP received a thorough education in such important subjects as diagnosis and treatment planning, cariology, radiographic interpretation, and minimally invasive dentistry. Due to the quality of education being nearly identical to the education received by students of dentistry, there should be no questions regarding dental therapists' competence to provide any of these services. In fact, I argue the focused education of dental therapy programs in treating underserved populations far exceeded what is taught at the majority of dental schools

Many other states are recognizing the importance of adding more allied health professionals to the dental team and the value this brings to dental offices and patients alike. I can share that I would be happy to have myself or any of my family members cared for by the dental therapists I have met and taught. I support without reservation and I hope that Oregon approves HB 2528.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Young', written in a cursive style.

Douglas A. Young, DDS, EdD, MBA, MS

MID Program Director

**Sea Mar Community Health Centers**

19005 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Street | Vancouver, WA | 98683

P 360.574.4074 | Ext 46407 | F 360.574.9237

Mobile: 510-910-0456

E-mail [dyoung@PACIFIC.EDU](mailto:dyoung@PACIFIC.EDU)

Professor Emeritus

Department of Diagnostic Sciences

**University of the Pacific,**

**Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry**

155 5th Street | San Francisco, CA 94103

Mobile: 510-910-0456

E-mail [dyoung@PACIFIC.EDU](mailto:dyoung@PACIFIC.EDU)