



March 4, 2021

First In Proactive Dental Care

6950 NE Campus Way, Hillsboro, OR 97124  
Tel 503.952.2000 Fax 503.952.2200  
[www.willamettedental.com](http://www.willamettedental.com)

Re: Supporting HB 2528

To: Chair Prusak, Vice-Chair Hayden, Vice-Chair Salinas, and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

I am writing to you today in support of HB 2528. I am a practicing dentist with Willamette Dental Group, PC, in Oregon, and a supervising dentist with the OHA Dental Pilot Project #300.

Dental therapists are primary oral health care professionals with the training to provide basic dental care — exams, fillings, and simple extractions — that many Oregonians still struggle to get today.

There is **overwhelming evidence showing dental therapists have been safely and successfully practicing in the U.S. for more than 15 years**, and they are currently working in Oregon under the successful but limited pilot programs.

Most importantly, **dental therapists deliver high-quality care**. By focusing on a smaller set of common procedures, dental therapists receive the intensive training necessary to become a highly skilled member of the dental care team.

For many Oregonians, there is a lack of access to routine, preventive dental care, especially in rural communities, communities of color, and low-income communities across our state - a situation worsened by COVID-19, which severely restricted dental care. Increasing access to basic dental care not only reduces preventable cavities but also supports overall health and reduces future health costs.

**House Bill 2528 allows the Oregon Board of Dentistry to license dental therapists**, which in turn allows Oregon dentists the opportunity to expand their care teams, create efficiencies within the clinic and increase their patient base.

Dental therapy not only improves access to care, but also offers a tool for future economic stability to dental clinics. In this year where improving equitable access to care and the state's economy are so important, dental therapy is a win-win.

**Please support HB 2528 to promote economic growth and expand dental care access in Oregon!**

Dr. Shannon English, DDS