



OREGON ACADEMY OF
Pediatric Dentistry

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301



 **oregon dental**
ASSOCIATION

March 4, 2021

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

The dental organizations signatory to this letter write today to express our significant concerns and opposition to HB 2528 as currently drafted.

HB 2528 creates an entirely new class of dental licensees. As drafted, the bill would allow these new providers — who may only be a few years out of high school — to perform irreversible surgical procedures that are not included within accredited dental therapy training requirements. Meaning the scope allowed under this bill is broader than required to be taught in dental therapy accredited programs. Additionally, the supervision requirements are so broad that they would allow new providers to be supervised by dentists who may not be within the same county, let alone the same building.

Increasing access to dental care is certainly a noble goal. It is a goal that we all share. However, we need to ensure that we are reaching this goal in a way that is safe. Our organizations are not opposed to the concept of dental therapy, but without adding sideboards around scope, training and supervision, the bill, as drafted, poses a danger to Oregon's most vulnerable populations.

We urge the committee to oppose the bill as introduced, and ensure the work on this bill moving forward is inclusive of the broader dental community.

Sincerely,

Brad Hester, DMD
President, Oregon Dental Association

Jessica Irwin, DMD
President, Oregon Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

Thomas Kolodge, DDS
President, Oregon Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons