



May 11, 2021

Senate Committee on Health Care  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

I am a private practice dentist in Keizer, Oregon who treats a wide variety of patients from all income levels.

I am reaching out today regarding the Dental Therapists Bill (House Bill 2528A). It has been said of this bill that we need it to create a "mid-level dental provider" in Oregon. I disagree, we already have a well-trained mid-level provider in our dental hygienists.

As you know, we have expanded the scope of practice for dental hygienists previously to include procedures such as "scoop and fill." I am very much in favor of continuing to look at the scope of practice for dental hygienists and expand that scope as necessary.

Dental training is vital, not necessarily for the procedures that go right, but for those that go wrong. Having a dental therapist with as few as 70 credit hours post-high school doing irreversible procedures is not moving oral health care in the right direction.

While the House amendments to the bill do help, such as requiring training programs to be certified by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), they do not go nearly far enough in other areas. I urge you to continue to look at expanding scope of practice for dental hygienists who already go through a rigorous training program and make necessary adjustments there.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Frankel".

Jennifer Frankel, DMD