

May 13, 2021

Senate Committee on Health Care

900 Court Street NE

Salem, Oregon, 97301

Dear Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

I am a practicing general dentist in Newberg, Oregon who treats a broad spectrum of patients in my area. I feel strongly that all Oregonians should have access to quality dental care.

I have concerns regarding the bill to propel forward the dental therapist in Oregon. I believe that there are plenty of dental health care providers that exist in this state. While dental therapist can aide in access to care in underserved areas, this bill does not properly define what a truly underserved area is. Based on the wording it would apply to the entire state of Oregon which I do not feel accurately describes our access to dental health care. My main concern is the scope and lack of supervision these dental therapists would be practicing under. Many procedures which may seem simple to perform can quickly become complicated when a patient's medical or social history comes into play. Proper medical and dental training with advanced knowledge of emergency management is critical. I feel that if a dental therapist does not have enough training in managing these situations or do not have the supervision to help manage than what should have been a simple procedure can result in irreversible situations.

Thank you for your time and allowing my voice to be heard. I appreciate the efforts to continue improving the quality and access to dental care in Oregon.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer McLeod', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jennifer McLeod, DMD

Newberg, Oregon