

Hello:

As a dentist practicing in S. Oregon I am opposed to this bill. 1) dental therapists (DT) will increase the "2-tier" system of care. Patients on OHP will definitely, disproportionately be seen and treated by DT. So those with the highest needs will be treated by DTs with the lowest skill set. Which ties in to my 2nd and 3rd points.

2) DT's are not currently able to be trained for the skill set this law allows. To restate that, there are not schools that teach what this law would allow them to do. Would you want this person doing treatment on you knowing they were never trained properly and have very little oversight?

3) The educational requirements are very low. 2-3 years post GED and you are now able to perform irreversible procedures on a patient.

Again, is this who you would want treating you? The answer is obviously "NO!". So if you wouldn't want them treating you, why would you be okay with them treating the state's patients who are most at vulnerable and in need?

Sincerely,

Adam Fox, DMD