

February 2, 2022

House Health Care Committee

RE: Support of HB 4095

Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Dr. Manu Chaudhry. I am the President and Dental Director for Capitol Dental Care (CDC). We are a Dental Care Organization (DCO) that provides care to Oregon Health Plan (OHP) beneficiaries, through contracts with Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO) across the state. Also, I am an OHP Medicaid provider and provide dental services to Oregonians.

Capitol Dental Care is writing in support of HB 4095, which establishes a Veterans Dental program to provide oral health care to low-income veterans.

Oral health is a critical component of overall health. Without adequate and appropriate dental care, an individual's health and quality of life can be adversely impacted. Individuals with dental disease are more likely to experience depression, lack of confidence, and difficulty obtaining employment, and self-report a lower quality of life than do people with healthy mouths.

As a Dental Care Organization (DCO), we are committed to providing oral health services to all underserved populations who are in need of care. It is very important that Oregon recognizes and addresses the inconsistencies in oral health care available to our veterans and ensures that all veterans receive the dental services that they need and deserve.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 4095. Capitol Dental Care looks forward to your support of the bill.