



February 7, 2023

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and members of the Committee,

The Oregon Dental Association (ODA) represents about 2100 dentists across the state. The ODA is proud to support SB 469. This bill would provide free tuition for Oregon tribal members pursuing a health professional degree at OHSU, including at OHSU's School of Dentistry.

The ODA is committed to building relationships with our tribal partners across the state to ensure equitable access to quality oral healthcare. As we have traveled to tribal dental clinics and learned about their unique opportunities and challenges, one trend we see and hear is the need for culturally competent providers while maintaining the expected standard of care for all patients. Finding pathways for tribal students to attend and complete dental school, we view, is a critical piece of the access puzzle. The ODA strongly believes that training more tribal members as dentists is the ideal way to increase access to highly skilled and culturally competent care.

Removing potential financial barriers is a critical step to help encourage tribal members to pursue careers in dentistry, and we fully support this measure. We look forward to welcoming additional dentists from all cultures into our profession.

The Oregon Dental Association respectfully requests support of SB 469.

Sincerely,

Mark Miller, DMD, MAGD

President, Oregon Dental Association