



## **HB3007: Empower OHA Dental Director, Create Oral Health Advisory Committee**

Since the 2015 Oregon Legislature directed the Health Authority to have a Dental Director, OHA has largely treated this position as an individual advisor rather than a leader of the state's oral health policy and programs. The position has not been properly resourced or given authority over oral health programs, even to see to the timely publication of oral health data collected by OHA.

The result has been a mismatch between the position and expectations of the state's Dental Directors, OHA leadership, and the oral health community. These amendments address this by enshrining high-level guidance about the Dental Director's role in statute and creating an Oral Health Advisory Committee.

The amendments to the **Dental Director statute**:

- **Clarify the role**, classifying it as a **senior executive** position that will **lead an Office of Oral Health** and promote evidence-based oral health prevention and treatment.
- Define the director as **OHA's liaison** to the dental and health communities and the public.
- Require OHA to dedicate a **budget and staff** to help the director carry out their duties.
- **Strengthen reporting** by requiring an **annual oral health summary surveillance report** to the Legislature and Oregon Health Policy Board be posted on OHA's website.

The bill would also create an **Oral Health Advisory Committee** to advise and make public oral health recommendations. OHA would appoint members and the committee would meet at least four times a year.

These amendments **should not require additional resources**, as they largely direct OHA to pull existing oral health functions under the Dental Director.

*See Next Page for Endorsements*

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