

Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Education  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

April 27, 2023

Dear Members of the Subcommittee on Education,

The Oregon Dental Association, representing 2,000 dentists across the state, fully supports House Bill 5025, the budget for Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU).

Over half of our members graduated from the OHSU School of Dentistry. OHSU trained us, taught us, and mentored us, supporting us to become the dentists we are today. And now, many of us mentor today's students. We know first-hand the important role the school plays in our community and the ability of Oregonians to access oral healthcare services.

OHSU School of Dentistry is filled with professionals dedicated to ensuring that dental students graduate ready to meet the oral health needs of our state. Further, the school is critical to addressing Oregon's dental workforce shortage.

In addition to the DMD program at OHSU, the school offers six advanced education programs, including: Endodontology, General Practice Residency, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, and Periodontology. These offerings draw students from across the country to study and practice in Oregon, diversifying and strengthening our future workforce.

OHSU dental students provide dental care to Oregonians in underserved rural and urban communities through the School of Dentistry's experiential learning program. Fourth year dental students are placed in over 50 Federally Qualified Health Centers, community clinics, and tribal health centers throughout the state for two months. Dental students and residents also provided thousands of COVID vaccinations during the pandemic to members of our communities.

The OHSU School of Dentistry is the region's major provider of care in head and neck cancer surgery, medically and behaviorally complex pediatric and adult patients, special needs patients, care for facial and cleft palates, temporomandibular disorders, and orofacial pain. The advanced education program in Endodontics is Oregon's largest provider of endodontic treatment that is not covered by OHP. Since the 1970s, the OHSU Russell Street Dental Clinic in North Portland has continued to provide oral health care for HIV-positive patients and low-income community members.

OHSU is a valued partner with the ODA and dentists across the state. OHSU provides real leadership and valuable collaboration on dental issues affecting both our profession and the health of Oregonians. **We encourage your full support of HB 5025.**

Sincerely,



Mark Miller, DMD, MAGD  
Oregon Dental Association President  
OHSU School of Dentistry Class of 1979