

February 11, 202

Senate Committee on Health Care

2025 Oregon Legislative Session

I am writing in strong support of SB 597, promoting oral health care coordination. I work for Community Health Centers of Lane County, a Federally Qualified Health Center. I am an Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist and Dental Sealant Coordinator for our local sealant program certified through Oregon Health Authority and have been serving children in Oregon schools and pre-schools for over 18 years. We serve thousands of children at over 90 sites every year and have referred hundreds over the years with urgent to emergent dental needs.

Many families need direct assistance navigating the process from finding a dental home, getting signed up or knowing which DCO they are assigned to, to making a timely appointment. Needed assistance with language barriers and transportation in both rural and city settings are common. We serve the most vulnerable in society, children and their families. When families can't access care in a timely fashion the costs become even greater. Children in dental pain can't take in proper nutrition, have disrupted sleep patterns, missed school, (which leads to parents missed work) lower levels of concentration while in school, negative behavior patterns, and increased emergency room visits.

Please join me in supporting care coordination, a vital tool needed for improving our health and reducing our costs as a society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alicia Riedman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alicia Riedman RDH, EPDH

Community Health Centers of Lane County Dental Prevention Program

Alicia.riedman@outlook .com