

February 18, 2025

900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301



Dear Members of Joint Committee On Ways and Means,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed budget for the Oregon Board of Dentistry and increased licensure fees. I understand personally from my experience operating a dental practice the challenges of having increased costs and flat revenue, just as the Board of Dentistry does. Further, I recognize the essential role the Board plays in ensuring the safety and well-being of Oregon residents by regulating and overseeing the practice of dentistry in the state and the need to maintain funding for these essential services.

The Oregon Board of Dentistry is responsible for upholding high standards of practice, ensuring patient safety, and providing the necessary oversight for professionals in the dental field. The work they do includes licensing, continuing education, and the investigation of complaints related to dental practices, and supporting the wellness of the dentist in Oregon—functions that directly contribute to maintaining the integrity of our healthcare system.

The proposed increase of fees and allocation of adequate funding to the Board is essential for the continued regulation of dental practices and the protection of public health. It is also crucial for advancing new initiatives such as the Dental Assistants Workforce Shortage Committee and the Oregon Wellness Program. With ongoing advancements in dental care, the Board must have adequate resources to adapt and respond to emerging challenges, including workforce shortages, maintaining rigorous standards for dental education and professional conduct, and ensuring that all practices meet the highest levels of care.

By supporting the Oregon Board of Dentistry's budget, you are making an investment in the health and safety of Oregonians and in the integrity of the dental profession. I urge you to approve the full funding request to ensure the continued success of the Board's essential work.

Thank you for considering this important matter, and for your continued commitment to the health of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Zeller", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Caroline Zeller, DDS
President, Oregon Dental Association

