



Siskiyou Community Health Center

February 18, 2025

Senate Committee on Health Care
2025 Oregon Legislative Session

My name is Terra Anderson and I am an Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist at Siskiyou Community Health Center in Grants Pass, Oregon and a member of the Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA). I am the care coordinator and clinician for the Dental Prevention Program, a program that serves over 2600 low-income and uninsured children in Josephine County. Josephine County has been designated as a dental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and many of the children we serve have never been to a dentist.

I am writing in strong support of SB 597 to create a grant program that provides financial support to certified dental sealant programs that promote and engage in oral health care coordination activities. The services we provide are preventative in nature and many children require extensive follow-up care to ensure they don't end up in an emergency room with an abscessed tooth. Many of the families we serve live in rural areas and experience numerous barriers to care which requires a higher level of care coordination services.

Last year our program referred 699 children for early and urgent care needs, but we did not have the capacity to provide care coordination services for each child due to lack of funding. If SB 597 is passed it would allow us to provide quality care coordination services to hundreds of families in Josephine County.

Please consider moving SB 597 to the Senate with a do pass recommendation.

Sincerely,



Terra Anderson, RDH, EPDH
Dental Prevention Program

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