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| Hood River Clinic and Administration<br>849 Pacific Ave<br>Hood River, OR 97031<br>541-386-6380 | School Based Health Center<br>1220 Indian Creek Road<br>Hood River, OR 97031<br>541-308-8345 | Stevenson Clinic<br>875 SW Rock Creek Dr<br>Stevenson, WA 98648<br>509-427-4212 | The Dalles Clinic<br>1040 Webber Street<br>The Dalles, OR 97031<br>541-386-6380 | White Salmon Clinic<br>65371 Highway 14<br>White Salmon, WA 98672<br>509-493-2133 |
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[www.onecommunityhealth.org](http://www.onecommunityhealth.org)

February 19, 2025

Senate Committee on Health Care  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re.: **Senate Bill 597**

Dear Senate Committee on Health Care,

I am writing on behalf of One Community Health (OCH) to express strong support for Senate Bill 597 (SB 597); a bill that would direct the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish a vital grant program supporting certified dental sealants and essential oral health care coordination. The bill is a key step toward improving Oregon's health care system and addressing urgent oral health needs of the children within our communities.

Without proper coordination, children who need follow-up dental care often struggle to access the services they require. SB 597 funding would help remove barriers to care, particularly for underserved children, ensuring they get the follow-up care they need.

The \$900,000 appropriation may seem substantial, but it is an investment that would ease the burden on the public health system by reducing costly emergency room trips for treatable conditions, like abscessed teeth; and coordinating follow-up care is far more affordable than emergency treatment.

One Community Health (OCH) recognizes that good oral health begins with prevention at an early age and this is a vital part of overall health. Our organization offers dental services at schools in Hood River county which include services such as fluoride varnish applications, dental sealants, and the integration of Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF), a treatment that helps prevent cavities. Our program reaches over one-third of eligible students, treating 800 + children annually.

We strongly urge you to move SB 597 forward to the Senate with a strong recommendation to pass. This bill is critical to ensure every child in Oregon has access to the oral health care they need for a healthy future.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Griffith*

Jennifer Griffith  
Chief Executive Officer