

March 4, 2025

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2224 AND -1 AMENDMENT

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Jo Bell, with Capitol Dental Care. We are a Dental Care Organization that provides care to Oregon Health Plan (OHP) beneficiaries through contracts with Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) across the state.

I am testifying today in support of HB 2224 and, specifically the -1 amendment, which would add an oral health representative to the Health Plan Quality Metrics Committee as well as the Medicaid Advisory Committee.

Oral health is a one of the major components of health care services provided through the Oregon Health Plan. Oral health is very important to the overall health of all Oregonians, and is especially critical to our most vulnerable populations who receive care through the Oregon Health Plan.

As an oral health organization and providers of dental services, we believe that including an oral health representative on these two committees is critical to successfully addressing issues relating to oral health, and overall health. The knowledge, perspective and expertise of an oral health professional will have a positive impact on each of the Committees, and strengthening their ability to understand and address oral health issues and to develop policies, position and solutions that will be successful. The unique perspectives of an oral health provider will not only be important for oral health issues, but will be also be important for understanding its relationship to overall health.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. We would urge your support of HB 2224 and the -1 amendment.