

3/7/2025

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Javadi & Nelson and Members of the Committee
Senate Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
2025 Oregon Legislative Session

I am writing to you in **support of HB 2597** that if passed will require the OHA and CCOs to reimburse dental providers at a minimum of 59.8% the average rate paid by insurers in Oregon.

I am a registered dental hygienist living in Klamath Falls Oregon. I work with the Oregon Institute of Technology as the senior lead instructor in the dental hygiene program. Our institution provides dental care for populations in our city and rural communities.

I support this bill because I see tremendous oral health needs in populations that do not have the financial stability to seek care without OHP assistance. Without reimbursement for dental providers, at a rate that covers overhead, our population struggles to find a provider who will accept them for care. Our clinics can provide services for preventative dental hygiene care by students; however we have few providers to refer patients to for their restorative needs. The consequence of this is people losing teeth or seeking care in emergency rooms for dental pain and infection.

I strongly urge you to refer HB 2597 to the House with a do pass recommendation

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeannie Bopp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeannie" being more prominent than the last name "Bopp".

Jeannie Bopp, MSAH, RDH
Assistant Professor
Oregon Institute of Technology
Klamath Falls, Oregon