

March 11, 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 an Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist and have worked for a Federally Qualified Health Center for over 18 years providing dental preventive outreach services. We serve thousands of children at over 90 sites every year and have referred hundreds of children with urgent to emergent dental needs.

Finding children that need care is the easy part, there are many. Finding a Dentist to treat them is extremely difficult. It can take over 6 months for children with pain to get an appointment, as most of Oregon is considered a federally designated dental health professional shortage area.

Many hours are spent assisting families with children that have urgent and emergent needs. Many times, the answer is, "we simply do not have any openings for 6 months or more as we don't have enough providers".

We need more providers to serve our state's vulnerable populations. This bill will encourage providers to see OHP patients, as they currently barely break even or lose money serving OHP clients.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alicia Riedman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alicia Riedman RDH, EPDH

Community Health Centers of Lane County Dental Prevention Program  
ODHA South West Component Director