

March 13, 2025

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Javadi and Nelson, & Members of House Committee on Behavioral and Health Care Members:

The Oregon Dental Association (ODA) is committed to advancing the dental profession and ensuring the highest standard of oral health and oral healthcare for all Oregonians. As a voluntary membership organization representing Oregon's dentists, we provide continuing education, advocacy, and public information initiatives aimed at promoting good dental health across the state.

Too many of our seniors lack access to oral health services. When Medicare was established in 1965, dental care was seen as something that could be addressed outside of the health care system. Unfortunately, the separation between the physical and oral health dental care has largely remained excluded, therefore, there are many Oregonians without the benefit of dental care.

Oral health is essential to overall health and this true for the young and the old. There's a strong connection between oral health and overall health. Poor oral health can contribute to or worsen several chronic health conditions, including heart disease, diabetes and even respiratory infections. Therefore, we urge you support House Bill 3326 study barriers to accessing dental care for seniors so all Oregonian can continue to smile.

Sincerely,



Caroline Zeller, DDS  
President, Oregon Dental Association