

Submitter: Tony Ramillosa  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB957

Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of SB957-A3.

My name is Dr. Tony Ramillosa and I am a practicing general dentist with an office here in Salem, Oregon.

I'm going to submit testimony that is almost exactly the same as the testimony I submitted in support of HB3923. That bill had two parts. The first dealt with the transfer of 500+ patients. That provision is not in this bill. The second provision however made clear that a provider switching from one DCO to another can inform patients of their options for continuing care under their current provider.

I've been practicing dentistry since 1998. My team and I are responsible for the dental care for about 3000 Medicaid patients at the present time. I have been providing dental care to the Oregon Medicaid population since 2015. In November 2023, I made the decision to switch my practice to another DCO provider. After making this decision, I was advised by my former DCO provider that I was not allowed to contact my existing patients to advise them of this change , and what steps they could take to remain patients at my practice. We were expressly forbidden from sending letters or making phone calls to our patients to help explain their options.

As a Medicaid dental provider, this was deeply concerning to me. It is a matter of continuity of care and patient choice. For many of the patients in the Medicaid population, they have lived without access to care, or have had limited care. For many this entails, extensive and invasive treatment across multiple appointments. It takes a long time to establish this level of trust and to have patients continue to show up for their appointments. I am 100% certain that many of our patients would've chosen to switch their DCO so they could continue to have us provide their dental care.

I applaud the intent of SB 957 to ban gag orders between DCO and dentists.