

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

Mr Chair and members of the committee, for the record I'm Jim Bunn from Amity.

I'm here to testify in favor of SB957-A3.

Among other things the -3 amendment's intent is to ban gag orders in contacts between DCOs and dentists. This non compete practice has been so abused that some Oregon dentists believe that they will be sued if they even inform their patients about their options for care.

Professionalism dictates that the provider should inform their patients about options. Lawyers and non compete language cause providers to question whether they are going to face a lawsuit if they inform their patients about their options. This "caught between a rock and a hard place" needs to end and the-3 is intended to end this conundrum.

It's been a long road. Last session we offered the-14 amendments to HB4130. This session we offered the-1 and -3 to SB951 and then we worked with Representative Javadi on HB3923 as a stand alone bill. We hit a few obstacles and then decided to reduce our ask. We no longer have language that would require OHA to facilitate the transfer of patients. We simply kept the part that insures a provider can inform their patients about their options while know that non compete gag orders are invalid.

I want to thank the committee and you Mr Chair for your patience and willingness to help us find a solution.

If this bill is implemented as intended we will no longer have DCOs allowed to block or threaten a dentist who simply wants to inform their patients of their rights to continue being cared for by their current provider.