



**To: House Health Care Committee  
From: Oregon Dental Association  
RE: HB 3082**

Good Afternoon Chair Greenlick and members of the committee. My name is Dr. Dan Saucy and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Dental Association. I am both the chair of the Government Relations Council for the ODA and a full time general dentist here in Salem. Thank you for allowing me to speak today in support of HB 3082.

Dental health is ultimately linked to overall health. Yet dental decay remains a significant public health problem among Oregon's children. Tooth decay is the number one chronic disease in childhood and is a leading cause of absenteeism. Pain and suffering due to untreated disease leads to problems with eating, speaking and diminishes a child's ability to focus on learning.

Only 22% of our state served by water fluoridation so the majority of our state is not receiving important oral health prevention measures. The passage of HB 3082 would help change this. Therapeutic mouth rinses that contain fluoride help prevent or reduce tooth decay by helping protect tooth enamel. Clinical studies indicate that regular use of a fluoride mouth rinse can provide additional protection against cavities even when an individual is using fluoride toothpaste.

Until we can bring the benefits of water fluoridation to everyone in Oregon, we must look at other ways to help our children remain on a path of oral health. Fluoride rinses help to achieve to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your time, I'm happy to answer any questions.