



To: House Health Care Committee
From: Oregon Dental Association
RE: SB 548

Good Afternoon Chair Greenlick and members of the committee. My name is Dr. Jeff Stewart and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Dental Association. I am both the Speaker of the House for the ODA and a full time faculty member at the OHSU School of Dentistry. Thank you for allowing me to speak today in support of SB 548.

The Oregon dental community is eagerly anticipating the relocation of the dental school and its' programs into the brand new Collaborative Life Sciences Building in Portland's South Waterfront district. This new building creates a place where our dental students can learn and provide patient care in a modern, state of the art facility. The OHSU School of Dentistry plays an important role in fulfilling the oral health care needs of the citizens of Oregon graduating some of the best clinically trained dentists in the entire region. The school is a nationally recognized dental research facility and is a sponsor for dental continuing education, in addition to being a place where students and faculty provide important treatment to fellow Oregonians.

Senate Bill 548 modifies the current language regarding the dental instructor's license issued by the State Board of Dentistry. It assures that current and future dental faculty members who are holders of this license will be able to continue to practice and teach in the new dental school facility in the same manner that they currently function in the existing dental school building. This change is critical to continue the educational and patient care programs at the same high level to which we hold ourselves accountable.

Significant philanthropic investments from across the dental community were needed to make this new building a possibility. We have the building, now we need to make sure we have the teachers to make a healthier Oregon a reality. I ask for your support of SB 548.