



TO: Senate Health Care and Human Service

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SUBJECT: Written testimony in support of Senate Bill 548

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Dear Members of the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee,

Oregon Health & Science University supports Senate Bill 548

As many of you may know, OHSU in collaboration with, Portland State University, Oregon State University and the Oregon University System is building what has been named the Collaborative Life Sciences Building or CLSB. The CLSB is currently under construction on the South Waterfront in Portland and will house interdisciplinary health and life sciences education. In addition, OHSU plans move its School of Dentistry into the CLSB with instruction beginning in 2014.

Because of this forthcoming change, OHSU and the Oregon Dental Association have brought Senate Bill 548 to you today. Senate Bill 548 is a technical fix that ensures OHSU dental instructors are able to avoid licensure challenges as OHSU moves its School of Dentistry facilities from Marquam Hill to the South Waterfront and works to expand dental residency positions throughout the state.

Currently, when defining the limits of a licensee with respect to OHSU and its dental instructors, the Oregon Dental Practice Act in ORS Chapter 679 uses the term "campus" in describing the location reserved for practicing dental instruction. However, that term "campus" is not defined. This means that interpretation of the statute, and in turn the boundary of OHSU's campus, is left unclear. OHSU is concerned that this lack of clarity could result in overly restrictive interpretations confining the practice of our dental instructors strictly to the current Marquam Hill campus.

Senate Bill 548 resolves this issue by removing the undefined term "campus" in existing statute and replacing it with language that is inclusive of all Oregon Health and Science University facilities. This will allow OHSU to move and expand the dental program without the fear of a statutory language that is open to interpretation.

Currently, we are concerned that this ambiguity in the statute may cause an issue for OHSU faculty practicing at the Russell Street Dental Clinic, a public health dental clinic located off the Marquam Hill campus in North Portland. Additionally, it is

particularly important for us to resolve this issue prior to moving the School of Dentistry to the South Waterfront.

Senate Bill 548 is a technical fix that aligns statutory language with the evolving realities of dental education at OHSU. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I encourage your support for this important legislation.