



**STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 25**

Approximately two-thirds of Americans seek care from a dentist regularly, many of the remaining individuals and families face challenges accessing dental care. These Americans, including racial and ethnic minorities, people with chronic diseases, the frail and elderly, and those whose families are economically disadvantaged, also bear a disproportionate share of dental disease.

Access challenges include difficulty getting to a dental office, prioritizing dental care among other health crises and basic needs of living, overcoming financial barriers, and navigating government assistance programs. Fewer people have dental insurance than have medical insurance, and it is often lost when individuals retire.

Oregon has been on the forefront with the passage of SB 738 in 2011 that expands the scope of trained dental hygienists. I have talked with some dental hygienists that have expanded their practice and access is increasing and more people are being served that did not receive dental services in the past.

SB 301 is a simple bill that removes “overall dental risk assessment and referral parameters” as a required part of an agreement that has to occur between a dental hygienist and a dentist. There is not opposition from the dentists or dental hygienists.