

To: Senate Health Care Committee
From: Oregon Dental Association
Re: Senate Bill 673



March 16, 2015

Good Afternoon Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the committee. For the record my name is Daniel Saucy and I am a general dentist here in the Salem area. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Dental Association in support of Senate Bill 673.

Although dentists' primary concern revolves around diagnosis and treatment of oral diseases, the responsibility and role in recognition of the interaction of oral and systematic health is always present. In fact, many infectious diseases that vaccinations are designed to prevent, manifest symptoms in the oral cavity in many cases before they appear in other parts of the body.

Dentists take our role as primary care givers very seriously, and are dedicated to doing our part to keeping Oregonians healthy. The average patient visits their dentist more often than their primary care physician, making the dental office an ideal location to provide an additional opportunity for immunizations.

Dental students at OHSU are now trained side by side with pharmacy, medical and nursing students for their first two years of school and already learn the anatomy of typical vaccination sites in their training. They are already receiving extensive instruction regarding injection techniques for intraoral injections and utilize this often in the care of their patients, even while they are still students. We feel confident with the appropriate additional training, those dentists who wish to, will be able to safely and confidently provide vaccinations.

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