

March 20, 2015

To: Chairman Greenlick and Members of the House Committee on Health Care

Dr. Sue Wendling

1740 Carriage Way

West Linn

I practice dentistry in Lake Oswego

I am here in support of HB 2683

-My personal story:

Approximately 15 years ago, an employee embezzled a large sum of money from me. To deter me from reporting the crime to the authorities, she threatened to report a violation on my part of the Dental Practice Act to the Oregon Board of Dentistry. I decided the best approach was to take a pro active stance and self reported the violation. The end result was an embarrassing, misleading and to some extent career changing permanent blight on my professional record.

Specifically, it has cost me patients and employment opportunities as an expert witness.

-But, this is not just about me:

I realize the important role The Oregon Board of Dentistry plays in protecting the public. But, virtually all Oregon dentists live in abject fear of an investigation/reprimand by the Board. We micromanage our employees and are reluctant to treat difficult people or cases for fear of having to deal with the stress of a Board inquiry.

Proof of this fear is evident in the fact that I am the only dentist testifying here today. But, I can promise you I have the support of many.

-In conclusion:

My reputation and ethical standards are of the utmost importance to me. I am nearing retirement from private practice and would like to put my experience to good use teaching at a school of dentistry. However, I feel my reprimand from the Board may prevent me from obtaining a position.

Thank you again for your time.

Questions?