

To: House Health Care Committee
From: Oregon Dental Association
Re: Senate Bill 474



May 6, 2015

Good afternoon, chair Greenlick and members of the committee. My name is Christina Bodamer and I am the Managing Director of Communications and Government Affairs at the Oregon Dental Association. I am here today to share the associations support of Senate Bill 474.

About a year ago the ODA was notified by the Oregon Board of Dentistry that there was clinic in the Portland area that was practicing outside of the ownership statute. The ownership statute is the part of the dental practice act that we are protective of. We intrinsically believe that the relationship between a patient and a doctor is something that should be protected from outside entities and that corporations should not be able to interfere with it.

However, as we have realized in years past, there are special exemptions that need to be recognized. The Providence Clinic is one of these exemptions. This clinic provides critical dental care to special needs children at a significant cost to the hospital. The patients seen by this clinic are so specialized that if they weren't being seen by this clinic, they would be struggling to find help elsewhere.

We applaud Providence's efforts over the past year to find a way to comply without legislation, however after avenue has been explored, we accept and support that the only solution is to create a very narrow exemption in the ownership statute that allows Providence to continue on with their very important and incredibly generous work.

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