



To: Senate Health Committee  
From: Oregon Health Equity Alliance  
Date: May 19, 2015  
Re: HB 2024

Chair and members of the committee:

The Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA) would like to express our support for HB 2024. OHEA represents a collective effort of 41 member organizations who work together to make Oregon a more equitable place for all. Our coalition believes every Oregonian should have an equal chance to achieve their full health potential, and that is why we are supporting HB 2024.

HB 2024 is an innovative approach that will reduce the access barriers to dental care faced by many of our underserved community members. We believe that improved access to dental care will lead to improved dental health within our communities.

Preventive services are an effective method of impacting dental health, and HB 2024 encourages such an approach to delivery of care. It provides basic preventive services, supports education on the importance of dental health and referrals to dental homes, and will be delivered with cultural competence by providers who have the trust of community members.

HB 2024 will also support Traditional Health Care Workers across the state by providing training and certification to provide needed basic preventive dental services in the community, including screenings and fluoride varnish applications.

This bill will increase dental care access and improve dental health for our community members. OHEA urges your full support of HB 2024. Thank you for your commitment to our communities.

Joseph Santos-Lyons, APANO, OHEA co-Chair  
Midge Purcell, Urban League of Portland, OHEA co-Chair