

May 19, 2015

Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Monnes-Anderson and Senate Committee on Health Care Members:

I am writing in support of HB 2024.

HB 2024 has the ability to reduce barriers to dental access for our community members most at risk. This bill is innovative, and has broad support including that of state legislators, Multnomah County, NWHF, OHEA, NAYA, Upstream Public Health, Clackamas School District, and ODA. The proposed legislative concept came heavily weighted from the City Club Children's Dental Health Task Force Report.

<http://www.pdxcityclub.org/Files/Reports/Children's%20Dental%20Health%20Task%20Force%20report.pdf>

Not only does this bill have the potential to improve access to dental care for our community members, it also allows an opportunity of income for Traditional Health Care Workers. HB 2024 essentially enables Traditional Health Care Workers with training and certification, to be able to provide basic preventive dental services in the community. The certification process will be determined by OHA in consultation with CCOs, DCOs, and the Oregon Board of Dentistry. The fiscal analysis from OHA is favorable, predicting that initial expenditures will likely be small. In addition, the fiscal analysis states that savings due to improved oral health will offset any costs.

We believe this bill has large potential to improve oral health. Many community members in need of dental care desire that preventive services to be brought to their community, and to be delivered with cultural competence by providers who have the historic trust of members in the community. This bill encourages such an approach to delivery of care.

HB 2024 also has the potential to improve referrals to dental providers. As community members, most at risk for dental disease, receive basic preventive dental services and have a positive oral health experience working with a trusted member of their community, this will naturally encourage more compliance to see a dental provider for more comprehensive procedures.

I encourage you to vote in support of HB 2024. It has the potential to improve oral health throughout our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

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