



## Capitol Dental Care, Inc.

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**March 30, 2017**

### **Senate Committee on Health Care**

#### **Testimony in support of SB 786 -3 amendment**

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Deborah Loy. I am the Executive Director of Government Programs for Capitol Dental Care (CDC). We are a dental care organization that provides care to Oregon Health Plan (OHP) beneficiaries. Capitol Dental Care is contracted with fourteen of the sixteen coordinated care organizations (CCOs) across the state.

I am here to testify on SB 786 and to request your support for the -3 amendment to the bill. The amendment completely replaces the bill as introduced.

Capitol Dental Care's purpose for introducing the bill is to clarify that dentistry delivered by telehealth methods, in and of itself is not a service but a means by which services are delivered. It further clarifies that dentistry delivered by telehealth is not an expansion of the scope of practice of a dental care provider. As long as the dental care provider is providing a service that is within their scope of practice, they are not acting outside of that scope simply because of using telehealth methods.

The bill defines that the Board of Dentistry shall treat a service delivered using telehealth the same as the board treats a service when delivered in person. It further states the board shall

apply identical quality and practice standards regardless of the method used to deliver the service.

All health care providers, including dental providers, as part of clinical practice determine which methods they will use to deliver a service. If a dental provider elects to use telehealth to deliver a dental service within their scope, the ability to do so should not be precluded by the board just because the means to deliver the service uses telehealth.

In 2015 The American Dental Association (ADA) passed a policy statement on teledentistry. This latest policy was critical to the profession accepting and implementing telehealth delivered dental services as ADA now can support dentists electing to use this method to deliver services. The policy statement is supported by both the ADA as well as the Oregon Dental Association (ODA).

A promising development in the use of teledentistry is workforce expansion. Higher education programs for dental providers recognizing the opportunities presented with teledentistry are training future providers to work in the current world of telecommunications and technology that is available today.

One of Capitol Dental Care's key strategies to expand access to care has been to build on the dental team. The telehealth connected dental team is comprised of a dental hygienist in the community setting connected to a dentist offsite. This virtual dental home is able to reach underserved groups, emphasize prevention and early intervention of dental services, and improve oral health outcomes. It is important to us to use the individuals in the entire virtual dental home team to their fullest scope of practice.

We are committed to expanding access to the OHP members we serve by providing dental care access where they live, work, and go to school. OHP members must overcome life barriers in accessing dental services such as transportation issues, not being able to get time off of work, and needing to secure child care for children who are not scheduled to be seen. By having dental services available in the community, it meets the Triple Aim goals of the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

Capitol Dental Care believes teledentistry is an important tool for the modern dental care provider to use in their practice. We have introduced this bill to clarify the role of teledentistry as a method to deliver dental services. We also want to ensure that the dental providers and services delivered via telehealth are treated by the Board of Dentistry the same as those provided in person.

We request and thank you for your support of the -3 amendments to SB 786.