

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 561
Presented by Lynn Ironside, RDH
Thursday, February 16, 2017**

Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Lynn Ironside and I reside in Portland, Oregon. I am a member of the Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association and I am representing ODHA today as their lobbyist.

The Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association supports Senate Bill 561, and thanks OHSU for including dental hygiene education in this proposed legislation. Senate Bill 561 would change the supervision requirement for dental and dental hygiene students engaged in clinical studies from **direct** supervision to **indirect** supervision.

Dental hygiene students engage in clinical studies as part of their education in order to attain clinical competence and develop clinical judgment. All patient care provided by dental hygiene students is supervised by faculty members. The level of supervision provided by faculty members is based on the student's level of skill, the procedure that is being performed, and the needs of the patient.

Direct supervision, as it appears in the current statute, implies that the faculty to student ratio for clinical studies must be one-to-one which would mean one faculty member per student during clinical studies. The American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) Standards for Dental Hygiene Education state that "faculty to student ratios must be sufficient to ensure the development of competence and ensure the health and safety of the public." During dental hygiene clinical studies, CODA specifies that the faculty to student ratio must not exceed one-to-five.

Indirect supervision, as it is proposed in this bill, would allow faculty members to provide the level of supervision that is appropriate based on the student's level of skill, the procedure that is being performed, and the needs of the patient. Indirect supervision would not preclude a faculty member from providing

direct supervision when it is appropriate, but it would not require a faculty member to provide direct supervision when it is not appropriate. Indirect supervision is in alignment with the accreditation requirement that “faculty to student ratios must be sufficient to ensure the development of competence and ensure the health and safety of the public.”

In closing, the Oregon Dental Hygienists’ Association supports Senate Bill 561 because it will allow faculty members to continue to provide the level of supervision that is appropriate for the dental or dental hygiene student’s level of skill, the procedure that is being performed, and the needs of the patient.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.