

Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session of 2020  
Delivered via Email

June 22, 2020

RE: LC 68 and LC 45 Section 45-47: Infectious Disease Standards

Dear Committee Members:

Infection control is not new for Oregon Dentists. Pre-COVID, dental offices adhered to strict infection control standards. Within COVID, dental offices have increased their infection control standards and Personal Protective Equipment requirements based on a variety of state and Federal regulatory guidance and requirements that are frequently changing. Oregon dentists are committed to ensuring a safe environment for their patients and team members. LC 68 and LC 45 Sections 45-47 do not take current infectious disease standards and requirements into consideration, nor does it consider the changing environment that is the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, the Oregon Dental Association has been an active participant on an OHA/Governor's office convened workgroup to develop new PPE guidance for providers and entities for resuming non-urgent and elective care. We appreciate the collaborative process to develop requirements and standards that are both scientifically based and workable for providers. We would appreciate the opportunity to see this process through completion before another entity is charged with creating an additional set of requirements for our providers.

We respectfully request that dental providers, subject to OHA guidance, are exempt from this these bills. Specifically, that *Health Care Workers licensed under ORS 679 and subject to OHA guidelines for infectious disease control, be exempted from LC 68 and LC 45 Sections 45-47.*

If the bill passes, ODA strongly urges that the Department of Consumer and Business Services adopt infectious disease standards, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including professional associations, and any such standard must be in alignment with current state and federal infectious disease standards or guidelines for providers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barry Taylor, DMD  
President Oregon Dental Association