

March 12, 2019

Testimony to the House Health Care Committee

RE: Testimony in support of HB 2609

Chair Salinas, Vice Chairs Hayden and Nosse, and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Dr. Jennifer Clemens. I am the Dental Director for Capitol Dental Care (CDC). We are a dental care organization that provides care to Oregon Health Plan (OHP) beneficiaries, through contracts with coordinated care organizations across the state.

I am here to testify on HB 2609 and to request your support for the bill and the -1 amendment.

HB 2609 defines “Dental Director” for the purpose of providing dental directors with access to specific information in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Currently, the law only applies to medical directors and pharmacy directors, allowing them access to the information in the PDMP. We believe that leaving dental directors out of the law was an oversight, as dentists regularly prescribe prescription drugs, including those classified as opioids.

Dental directors should have the same access and ability that medical and pharmacy directors currently have to monitor their clinics, offices, or system of clinics to ensure the delivery of quality care. This bill will provide a valuable tool for dental directors to ensure that providers within their clinics, offices, or system of clinics are prescribing safely and in accordance with recommended guidelines.

The -1 amendment removes the language about the dental director appointed by the Oregon Health Authority. The OHA dental director position does not fit the definition and role of dental director that is appropriate for the section of the law that we are amending. We have discussed this with the OHA Dental Director, Dr. Bruce Austin, and OHA is in agreement with removing the language as the position with OHA allows access to the information and data appropriate to that position.

In addition to Capitol Dental Care, there are a number of other organizations that support HB 2609. Their names are included in a separate document we have provided and is on OLIS.

Capitol Dental Care wants to thank you for allowing us to testify today. We would appreciate your support of HB 2609.