



**COW CREEK BAND OF UMPQUA TRIBE OF INDIANS
GOVERNMENT OFFICES**

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January 9, 2020

Re: Legislation to Authorize DHAT as Licensed Oregon Providers

Dear Legislator,

The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians (CCBUTI) is strongly in support of Oregon passing legislation authorizing dental health therapists as licensed Oregon providers. Native Dental Health Aid Therapists, in Alaska, have been providing care to their tribal members for the past 15 years. The DHAT professional has proven to be effective in over 50 countries and is evidenced-based, culturally relevant and is a cost effective, safe addition to the dental team.

Here in Oregon, the Tribal DHAT Pilot Project, approved by the State in 2016, has shown to meet the goals of Senate Bill 738 which was to develop innovative practices to oral health care delivery systems focusing on providing care to populations that evidence-based studies have shown to have the highest rates and the lowest access to dental care. Recognizing overwhelming oral health disparities, the need for system change and the evidenced-based outcomes of dental therapy, twelve states now have authorized dental therapy in some or all settings to help meet the needs of those who cannot access care. **We ask that the State of Oregon be next!**

There is much work to be done to turn the tide on oral health care disparities in Oregon especially amongst our tribal nations. Our tribe believes dental therapy is a solution to our tribal needs. We urge you to support the licensing of DHAT in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Dan Courtney, Tribal Chairman
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians