

Senate Committee on Health Care

February 4, 2020

RE: Opposition to SB 1549

Chair Senator Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Moda and ODS Community Dental, I am writing to express our opposition to SB 1549.

ODS Community Dental has been administering dental Medicaid since the inception of the Oregon Health Plan. We serve over 200,000 members in 11 CCO service areas across the state.

We fully support the intent to "...address racial, ethnic and economic disparities in overall health and rural access gaps..." as stated in this bill. We understand the role a new type of dental provider could play in reducing those disparities and closing access gaps. However creating a new type of provider requires careful consideration. Allowing adequate time for debate and deliberation of amendments is critical. We are concerned that is not possible during this short session.

There are multiple areas in the bill that need to be better refined or better defined. We are particularly concerned with the multiple confusing pathways to licensure.

As a sub-contracted dental plan of CCOs we are responsible for ensuring a quality dental network. The language in the bill does not require consistent educational or clinical experience standards as a requirement for licensure. This opens the window to deficiencies in individual competency and questionable assurances of a qualified provider.

In the absence of the time needed to offer and thoughtfully consider amendments, we encourage the committee to vote no on SB 1549.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teri Barichello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Teri Barichello, DMD
Vice President and Chief Dental Officer