

Subject: SB 1549 Testimony



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to Sen.LaurieMonnesAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov ▾

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Dear Senator Monnes Anderson,

I am sending this in response to testimony offered by the Oregon Dental Association (ODA) during yesterday's Senate Committee on Health Care hearing for SB 1549. The ODA provided a summary document (attached) negotiated a part of an arbitration process during the 2011 legislative session. I represented the Oregon Oral Health Coalition (OrOHC) during arbitration so my name is included on the document as OrOHC's point of contact at the time.

I would like to point out that this was an agreement between ODA and OrOHC only. No other parties were involved in arbitration or agreed to the provisions. This was a compromise position that led to passage of SB 738 (Dental Pilot Projects) in 2011. OrOHC did not imagine and it was not our intent that the Dental Pilot Project approval, monitoring and reporting process would become such an expensive and heavy administrative burden for participating organizations. Moreover, I do not concur that the agreement between ODA and OrOHC precludes advancing dental therapist legislation during this session. The provision for sunset language was added so pilot projects would not continue indefinitely.

Advantage Dental serves over 330,000 Oregon Health Plan members through 60 dental offices scattered across the state including many in rural counties. Advantage Dental endorses SB 1549 and we believe it is a safe and effective means to expand the health care workforce to meet the growing need for dental care among Oregonians.

Thank you for your time. Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

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