

February 18, 2020

Chair Andrea Salinas
House Committee on Health Care

RE: Support for SB1550A

Chair Salinas and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Moda and ODS Community Dental, I am writing to express my support for SB 1550A.

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 provide access to care for those members through our 1,151 contracted providers which includes 98 expanded practice dental hygienists (EPDHs).

Expanded practice dental hygienists often work in community or school-based settings providing essential preventive services. They commonly encounter patients with active caries (dental decay). Allowing the placement of interim therapeutic restorations (ITR) provides a temporary solution to manage the caries process until the patient can be seen for definitive treatment. It is a minimally invasive procedure that is well suited for working in community settings. It does not require the use of local anesthesia and the material used for restoring is not technique sensitive.

Allowing the placement of interim therapeutic restorations is sensible, practical and useful expansion of scope of practice for expanded practice dental hygienists. Placement of ITRs will also allow expansion of teledentistry service models which could greatly increase access to dental care in rural and underserved areas.

We encourage you to support SB 1550A.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teri Barichello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Teri Barichello, DMD
Vice President and Chief Dental Officer