

From the desk of

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**PLEASE SUPPORT SB 1550 – Relating to Interim Therapeutic Restorations**

Evidence-based studies have shown that the majority of underserved individuals with the majority of dental disease cannot take advantage of the traditional oral health delivery system. In Oregon that is largely due to severely limited access to dental care providers, particularly for low income, rural and underserved populations and is especially critical for children.

SB 1550 provides one tool to address this shortage of dental care providers, by providing needed access to dental care to Oregon's rural, low income and underserved populations, with a focus on children.

SB 1550 does this by defining and adding Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITR), also referred to as scoop-n-fill or non-drilling fillings, to the scope of services that an Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist (EPDH) may provide when caring for those in need of dental health services.

SB 738 (2011) allowed OHA to approve dental workforce pilot projects to address dental workforce shortages and to provide needed access to care. Pilot Project #200 was developed to "teach new skills to an existing category of dental personnel," specifically to train Expanded Practice Dental Hygienists (EPDH) to place Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITR) and to integrate this practice in school-based dental preventive programs in rural settings, where an especially large number of low-income children are unable to access dental care. This bill is the next step to allow for this innovative practice to continue and be available to all Expanded Practice Dental Hygienists and their patients in Oregon.

SB 1550 is important because it:

- Provides access to treatment for dental caries where there is none now;
- Allows an EPDH to provide additional services in the community, especially for children, where they are frequently already receiving school-based oral health services, such as assessments, dental sealants and fluoride varnishes
  - 44% of children with dental disease seen in the Pilot Project were successfully served in the community;
- Prevents further progression of dental disease in a patient who has had treatment by an EPDH providing ITR;
- Demonstrates high value to patients and their families, including indirect benefits addressing barriers they face in providing for their family's oral health needs
  - In the Pilot Project, parent satisfaction surveys show a high level of acceptance and satisfaction with treatment (over 90%).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF SB 1550.**