

**To:** Joint Interim Committee on the Second Special Session of 2021  
**From:** Montana Lewellen on behalf of the DCO Coalition  
**Re:** Testimony in Support of \$19M Appropriation for OHP Dental Rates  
**Date:** December 11, 2021

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Fahey, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Dental Care Organization Coalition, thank you for supporting our dental providers by releasing the \$19 million appropriation for dental rates during the Special Session.

On January 1, 2021, the OHA implemented an 11% rate cut to dental services administered across the Oregon Health Plan, resulting in a \$39 million cut to the system. The drastic reduction set dental rates back to 2014 levels during a global pandemic, placing unnecessary strain on our Medicaid system and risking access to dental care for OHP members. In June of 2021 the Legislature allocated a \$19mil special purpose appropriation to the Oregon Health Authority to help recover half of the lost reimbursement.

Since then, our coalition has engaged in conversations with the Oregon Health Authority about the best way to immediately get this funding into the hands of those who need it most, without impacting the quality of or access to patient care. We are confident that the direct flow of dollars to 2021 dental rates will help to stabilize our provider network. We have proposed various accountability measures in partnership with the CCOs in an effort to avoid gaps in access for the most vulnerable and will continue to work with the OHA so that the funding is distributed appropriately.

Thank you again for prioritizing this issue and appropriating these urgent and necessary funds to the OHA.

Sincerely,

The DCO Coalition