



March 2, 2021

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2528

Dear Chair Prusak and members of the House Committee on Health Care,

I am a private practice dentist in Keizer, Oregon who treats a wide variety of patients from all income levels.

I am reaching out today regarding the Dental Therapists Bill (House Bill 2528). It has been said of this bill that we need it to create a “mid-level provider” in Oregon. I disagree, we already have a well-trained mid-level provider. Our dental hygienists are our mid-level providers.

As you know, we have expanded the scope of practice for dental hygienists previously to include procedures such as “scoop and fill.” I am very much in favor of continuing to look at the scope of practice for dental hygienists and expand that scope as necessary.

Dental training is vital, not necessarily for the procedures that go right, but for those that go wrong. Having a dental therapist with as few as 70 credit hours post-high school doing irreversible procedures is not moving oral health care in the right direction.

In addition, the current proposal allows dental therapists to practice under “general supervision.” This means a dentist is not required to be in the same office, or even the same city when a dental therapist is performing irreversible, surgical procedures.

I urge you to continue to look at expanding scope of practice for dental hygienists who go through a rigorous training program already and make necessary adjustments there. The HB 2528 as it is currently written is a step backward for our vulnerable communities.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Warmest Regards,

Jennifer Frankel, DMD