

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2627  
March 4, 2021**

Chair Prusak and Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

For the record, my name is Pamela Lynch, and reside in Tigard, OR. I am an Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist and Aesthetician. I have been a practicing dental hygienist since graduating from Oregon Institute of Technology in 2004 with Associate and Bachelor of Applied Science Degrees in Dental Hygiene.

I am writing in support of House Bill 2627 that would amend the Dental Practice Act to allow Expanded Practice Dental Hygienists to perform Interim Therapeutic Restorations, aka ITR.

I opened About Face Dental Hygiene Spa in 2012, an independently owned dental hygiene and skin care practice. The concept for opening a dental spa came to me in hygiene school to address dental phobia and financial barriers, leading causes for avoiding dental care. I offer preventive and therapeutic dental care in a relaxing setting. Due to the trust and confidence, I have built with my clients, they have received restorative and surgical care from my collaborating dentist colleagues.

ITR (it is also known as ART, Atraumatic Restorative Treatment.) is used as a temporary restoration that will be replaced with a more definitive one. It has been used for more than 25 years to address dental care disparities in other countries. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6473645/> The filling material that is used is GIC, a glass ionomer that bonds to enamel and dentine and also releases fluoride that inhibit the growth of bacteria that causes dental decay. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6473645/>

In Oregon's dental pilot project #200, Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist effectively slowed the progression of dental decay in children using ITR. The passing of SB 1550 will allow all EPDHs to use ITR, to prevent decay from progressing. Many of my EPDH colleagues have mobile practices, caring for patients in senior care facilities and other underserved congregate settings. This non-invasive procedure will allow EPDHs to provide non-traumatic interim dental care.

The Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association supports SB 2979. Please feel free to contact me regarding the benefit of expanding the scope of practice for Expanded Practice Dental Hygienists.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

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**Pamela Lynch, BSDH, EPDH, LAe**  
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