

May 10, 2021

Senate Committee on Health Care

900 Court Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

I am a general dentist practicing in Happy Valley. I have been practicing for 32 years and before that as a dental hygienist for 10 years. I am concerned about House Bill 2528. This bill, if adopted would allow persons to practice dentistry with only 2-3 years of education. Under the bill, these new providers, dental therapist, could provide an oral diagnosis and perform tooth extractions, fillings, temporary crowns and pulpotomies. These providers would be working on Oregon's most vulnerable populations.

I agree there is a problem with access to care, but do not believe dental therapists are the answer to this problem. Improving Oregon's Medicaid system to reimburse providers at levels closer to the cost of care would help alleviate this problem.

If dental therapy is adopted as a new health care provider it is critical that training is at a CODA accredited institution. This is the same standard for every dentist and dental hygienist across the United States.

Please vote no on HB 2528.

Sincerely,

Dr. Frances Sunseri

Happy Valley, OR