

May 12, 2021

Senate Committee on Health Care  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon, 97301

**Subject:** Significant Concern with HB 2528

Dear Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to the Committee. I am an Oral Surgeon in Lake Oswego and both a graduate and attending faculty at Oregon Health and Science University. I care for a wide variety of dental patients, both in the outpatient setting, and via hospital and emergency services. I care for Oregonians in all four corners of the state, often by emergency transfer, due to limited local services in the more rural parts of our state. As such I critically support measures increase access to dentistry in Oregon.

Nonetheless, today I write with significant concerns on the Dental Therapy bill, HB 2528. As written, the scope of practice enumerated by the bill far outstrips the minimum education and training required of any dental provider in order to ensure safety and competence in these procedures. In comparison to the national standards established by the Committee on Dental Education (CODA) (which Oregon also follows to determine the scope of practice for Dentists and Dental Hygienists) the proposed bill allows for therapists to perform many irreversible procedures with significant risk of morbidity to patients. While access to preventive dentistry among vulnerable populations in the state will be helped by the addition of dental therapists, I urge you to modify this bill to ensure that any therapist performing irreversible surgical procedures receive a more robust training.

Sincerely,

Philip C. Mann, DDS, MD  
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