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Subject: Testimony regarding HB 2528

From: T Matthew Jacks, DDS, FACS – Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Good People of Oregon,

- 1) Having read the bill, I'm convinced it's not completely fallible at least in the short term. A licensed "Dental Therapist" can only act under the direct supervision of a dentist. The scope of care is basic. One assumes the role exists for underserved areas. However, underserved citizens are citizens nonetheless and deserve full protection of the law. In healthcare, medical-legal statutes stem from the concept of *Standard of Care*. This standard is generally created in agreement between licensed providers having trained under the oversight of accredited programs. This code is reinforced through professional organizations, board certification, licensing, credentialing and the legal system. At its base, the Dental Therapist program is lacking the appropriate credentialing oversight. Any dental education program must be certified by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) or the program is universally acknowledged as baseless. This is precedent.
- 2) My suggestion is to table the bill and legitimize the training/accrediting. While the intent of the bill is good, the logistics - creation to application/target – are in need of revision.
- 3) Having served as an academic surgeon for the US Navy over 20 years, having trained over 200 candidates, created multiple curricula, endured the accreditation process multiple times, and served as a board certification examiner, I'd be happy to facilitate a better way.