

House Healthcare Committee

I am writing in opposition to HB2528 as written. As a licensed dentist I have concerns that this bill introduces a scope of practice beyond what is currently in the CODA standards. CODA stands for the Council on Dental Accreditation, the formal body that establishes curriculum for dentists, dental assistants, dental laboratory technicians and dental hygienists along with dental therapists. There is one official standard for these professional curricula. In Oregon, the Board of Dentistry currently holds these standards for the above mentioned disciplines. HB2528 establishes the acceptance of multiple training programs, only one of which references CODA. To have multiple pathways for training is different than having different standards of training and curricula. Additionally, there is much broader scope of practice allowed by this legislation than outlined in the CODA accredited curriculum. It is for these reasons that I oppose the Bill as written, and would actually be in support of an amended bill that follows CODA curriculum, training and scope of practice. There are other changes regarding supervision that I feel need to be addressed too. The amount of training does not seem to provide an adequate safety factor for addressing procedural complications to work without the support of a dentist on site. This is partly due to the more complicated underlying health issues of many patients today. The bottom line is that there is the need for a discussion on amendments for this bill. Thank you for allowing me to present my concerns to the health care committee.

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