

2/25/2021

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

Subject: Significant Concern with HB 2528

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas,

I am an oral and maxillofacial surgeon with offices in Gresham, Milwaukie and The Dalles, OR. I see several hundred OHP patients every year.

Today I write with significant concerns on the Dental Therapy bill, HB 2528. While a dental therapist may have some utility in certain circumstances, this bill will harm the public. The breadth of services allowed are far outside of proper training to treat people properly. Obviously, my knowledge base is deepest in oral surgery and I can tell you without equivocation that untrained people extracting teeth is dangerous... and could be deadly. The pilot program that was authorized clearly showed deficiencies in the ability of these proposed practitioners to make sound medical judgements or perform the procedures without risk to the patients. What's possibly the most puzzling and concerning is that these lessons have been completely ignored by those who seek to support this bill.

While this bill is framed as a necessary service to underserved populations, those that need these services are not second hand citizens and should be treated with the same respect and standards that every other Oregonian is afforded. Having access to dangerous situations with poorly trained individuals supported by our state legislature is unconscionable.

Additionally, I urge you to consider the real push for these providers...greed. Large dental provider companies that service these populations believe they can hire them instead of trained dentists for a fraction of the cost so they can profit from OHP dollars. While I do see some OHP patients, I do it as a service to the community. In many cases, I do not even get enough reimbursement for the overhead in my office and do it at a cost to me. I am more concerned about the welfare of the people of our state.

Please do not move this bill out of committee without substantial revisions to ensure patient safety.

Sincerely,



Russell A. Lieblick, DMD
Portland, Oregon

GRESHAM

Legacy Mt. Hood Medical Center
Medical Office Building 2
24850 SE Stark St., Suite 100
Gresham, OR 97030
tel. 503.665.7882
fax 503.665.6983

MILWAUKIE

2001 SE Jefferson St.
Milwaukie, OR 97222
tel. 503.654.3530
fax 503.654.3490

THE DALLES

Klindt Cove Building A
3601 Klindt Dr., Suite 100
The Dalles, OR 97058
tel. 541.296.7590
fax 541.296.7690

VANCOUVER

3215 SE 192nd Ave. Suite 112
Vancouver, WA 98683
tel. 360.256.7100
fax 360.256.8886