



February 7, 2023

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson and members of the Committee,

The Oregon Dental Association (ODA) represents 2100 dentists across the state. The ODA is proud to support HB 2538. This bill would allow for clinics to be reimbursed for the cost of healthcare interpreters.

Clinics are required to provide qualified or certified interpreters for patients, and ODA recognizes that this requirement is a critical step towards advancing health equity.

Currently, providers are responsible for covering the cost for interpreters. While Medicaid will help cover this cost, commercial insurers do not—and interpretation services can be quite costly. HB 2538 would ensure that providers are reimbursed for the cost of providing a healthcare interpreter.

The Oregon Dental Association would like to thank the Oregon Medical Association and the other proponents of HB 2538 for working with us on a forthcoming amendment that will ensure that dental providers are covered under this bill.

The Oregon Dental Association respectfully requests support of HB 2538.

Sincerely,

Mark Miller, DMD, MAGD

President, Oregon Dental Association