

February 13, 2023

House Behavioral Health & Health Care Committee

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 3007

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin & Pham, and Members of the Committee:

For the record my name is Dr. Manu Chaudhry. I am the President and Dental Director for Capitol Dental Care (CDC). We are a Dental Care Organization (DCO) that provides care to Oregon Health Plan (OHP) beneficiaries, through contracts with Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO) across the state; and I have served as an OHP Medicaid provider and provide dental services to Oregonians. Currently, I also serve as a member of the following Oregon Health Policy Board sub-committees: Healthcare Workforce Committee, Health IT Oversight Council (HITOC), HITOC's Board liaison and co-chair of its HIE workgroup, and the Metrics and Scoring Committee.

We are writing to fully support HB 3007, which clarifies the role and status of the Oregon dental director, establishes an Office of Oral Health to assist the Dental Director, and also creates an Oral Health Advisory Committee.

In 2015, Capitol Dental Care was an active part of the coalition who brought forward legislation to support and outline the role of the dental director and the responsibilities of the position. At that time, we stated in testimony that Oregon needed to support the State Dental Director, and that we needed to "appropriately staff, fund, and 'empower' the position to serve as the oral health leader." We also stated that the position "within the Oregon Health Authority must be at a level in which they can influence policy making, and has decision-making authority. . ." Since then, this position has been treated as an individual advisor, without staff support, authority or visibility to serve as that much-needed oral health leader for Oregon.

HB 3007 addresses the mismatch between the position and expectations of the state's Dental Director, OHA leadership and the oral health community. The bill does this by providing statutory language that provides clarification, clear expectations and guidance for Oregon's oral health leadership roles, including the dental director, the Oral Health Advisory Committee and the Office of Oral Health.

Capitol Dental Care thanks you for hearing HB 3007 and providing an opportunity to present our thoughts on the bill.

We would respectfully request your support for HB 3007.