

## **A Case Study in Advocacy: Dental Therapy**

**2021 Oregon Dental Hygiene Conference  
November 12 & 13, 2021**

**Lisa J. Rowley, RDH, MS**  
503-568-5825  
[lisajrowley@pacificu.edu](mailto:lisajrowley@pacificu.edu)



### **Course Description**

This course will provide an overview of dental therapy and discuss how Oregon became the 12<sup>th</sup> state to allow dental therapists to be licensed to practice.

We will discuss the first dental therapy bill that was proposed in 2011 and how it led to the Oregon Dental Pilot Project Program.

The two-year legislative process that led to the passage of the dental therapy bill in Oregon will be reviewed with an emphasis on the advocacy activities of the stakeholder groups.

Oregon's new dental therapy law will be examined in terms of licensure requirements, supervision, collaborative agreement and scope of practice.

Finally, we will discuss the role of the Oregon Board of Dentistry in implementing Oregon's new dental therapy law.

## Objectives

1. Discuss the role of a dental therapist in dentistry
2. Review the history of dental therapy throughout the world.
3. Identify states that have passed a dental therapy law & states that are pursuing dental therapy legislation.
4. Discuss the dental therapy legislation that was proposed in Oregon in 2011.
5. Discuss the purpose of Dental Pilot Projects in Oregon.
6. Describe the three Dental Pilot Projects that were authorized in Oregon.
7. Discuss the dental therapy legislation that was proposed in Oregon in 2020.
8. Discuss the dental therapy legislation that was passed in Oregon in 2021.
9. Discuss the dental therapy law in Oregon in terms of education, board exams, patients, supervision, collaborative agreement, scope of practice.
10. Discuss the role of the Oregon Board of Dentistry in implementing Oregon's dental therapy law.

## What is a Dental Therapist?

- Dental therapists are **midlevel providers**, similar to physician assistants in medicine.
- Dentists can hire & supervise dental therapists to expand quality care to more patients, grow their practices, & provide treatment to underserved at-risk populations.
- Dental therapists can work in traditional dental offices & clinics, or in community settings, such as schools or nursing homes.
- Dental therapists provide preventive & **routine restorative care**, including filling cavities, placing temporary crowns, & extracting badly diseased or loose teeth.

**Source: Pew Charitable Trusts**

## How Can Dental Therapists Help Dentists?

- Dental therapists can help dentists provide routine services to more patients, expand dentists' practices, & generate additional revenue.
- Dentists can supervise dental therapists without being physically present, which offers maximum flexibility when employing dental therapists, whether in the dental office to expand operating hours or in community-based settings.
- Dental therapists earn lower salaries than dentists, so adding them to the team can also help dentists provide more cost-effective care. By delegating some of the routine procedures to these midlevel staff members, dentists can lower their per-unit costs, treat more patients, & generate higher revenue.

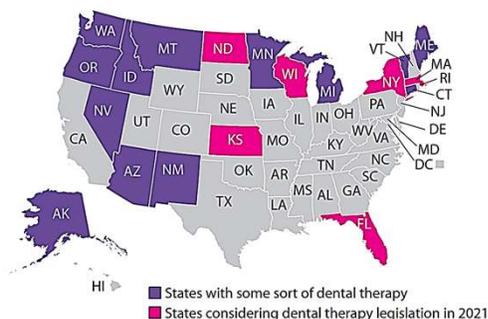
**Source: Pew Charitable Trusts**

## Brief History of Dental Therapists

- 1921 – New Zealand starts training dental nurses to provide preventive & restorative dental care to children in school-based clinics
- 1949 – Malaysia starts the first program to train dental nurses outside of New Zealand
- 1960 – Great Britain begins to train dental nurses
- 1965 – Australia adopts this dental nurse model
- 1972 – Canada begins to train dental nurses
- 2003 – Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium sends 6 Alaskan natives to be trained as dental therapists in New Zealand
- 2005 – Dental therapists begin working in Alaska
- 2005 – American Dental Association sues to stop this “illegal practice of dentistry” in Alaska
- 2007 – ADA lawsuit is settled & dental therapists continue to work in Alaska
- 2007 – Alaska begins its own training program for dental therapists
- 2009 – Minnesota passes first law to authorize dental therapists in U.S.

**Source: Nash, et al. Dental Therapists: A Global Perspective**

### States with Dental Therapy Laws



- Minnesota (2009)
- Maine
- Vermont
- Washington (tribal only)
- Arizona
- Michigan
- New Mexico
- Idaho (tribal only)
- Montana (tribal only)
- Nevada
- Connecticut
- Oregon (2021)**

Source: Dimensions of Dental Hygiene

### States Pursuing Dental Therapy Laws

- Florida
- Kansas
- Massachusetts
- New York
- North Dakota
- Washington
- Wisconsin



Source: Dimensions of Dental Hygiene

## Dental Therapy Bill in Oregon 2011

### Dental Therapist Legislation in Oregon 2011

- In 2011 **Senate Bill 227** was introduced at the request of the Oregon Oral Health Coalition (OrOHC)
- The intent of this bill was to amend the Oregon Dental Practice Act to create a dental therapist certificate for dental hygienists who completed a dental therapist education program approved by the Oregon Board of Dentistry
- SB 227 was immediately opposed by the Oregon Dental Association (ODA)
- SB 227 did not pass, but led to mediation between the Oregon Oral Health Coalition and the Oregon Dental Association that resulted in the passage of **Senate Bill 738**

### **Senate Bill 738**

- In 2011 SB 738 was passed by Oregon Legislative Session
- SB 738 included a variety of provisions that amended the Oregon dental law
- SB 738 changed the “limited access” permit to “expanded practice” permit
- **SB 738 authorized Dental Pilot Projects** as a compromise instead of authorizing dental therapists

### **Pilot Project Legislation**

- Pilot projects laws are adopted by the legislature to temporarily “try out” an idea on a small scale before committing to the idea on a permanent basis.
- In most cases, the pilot projects are required to report their results back to the legislature
- If the results are positive, then the legislature may pass a law to make the idea permanent

### **Senate Bill 738 Dental Pilot Projects – Purpose**

“encourage the development of **innovative practices in oral health care delivery systems** with a focus on providing care to populations that evidence-based studies have shown have the highest disease rates and the **least access to dental care.**”

“Evaluate quality of care, access, cost, workforce and efficacy;”

“achieve at least one of the following:

- Teach new skills to existing categories of dental personnel;
- Develop new categories of dental personnel;
- Accelerate the training of existing categories of dental personnel; or
- Teach new oral health care roles to previously untrained persons.”

### **Senate Bill 738 Dental Pilot Projects – Details**

“Operate **for three to five years** or a sufficient amount of time to evaluate the validity of the pilot project”

“a person **may practice dentistry or dental hygiene without a license** as part of a pilot project approved under this section under the general supervision of a dentist”

“A person practicing dentistry or dental hygiene without a license under this section is subject to the **same standard of care** and is entitled to the **same immunities** as a person performing the services with a license.”

Originally scheduled to sunset on **January 2, 2018**

Now scheduled to sunset on **January 2, 2025**

## Role of Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for Dental Pilot Projects

- Adopt rules for application process, minimum standards, reporting requirements, evaluation measures, provisions for patient safety, etc.
- Review & approve dental pilot project applications
- Monitor dental pilot projects
- Oregon Board of Dentistry does **not** have authority over the dental pilot projects

## Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Website

The screenshot displays the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) website. The browser address bar shows the URL: <https://www.oregon.gov/OHA/PH/PreventionWellness/oralhealth/>. The website header includes navigation links: About OHA, Programs and Services, Oregon Health Plan, Health System Reform, and Licenses and Certificates. The main content area features the Oregon Health Authority logo and the title "Dental Pilot Projects" under the "Oral Health Unit". A navigation breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Public Health Division > Prevention and Wellness > Oral Health > Dental Pilot Projects. A yellow banner at the top of the content area provides COVID-19 updates and resources. Below the banner, the "Dental Pilot Projects" section is introduced with the text: "The goal of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Dental Pilot Project Program is to encourage the development of innovative practices in oral health care delivery systems with a focus on providing care to populations that evidence-based studies have shown have the highest disease rates and the least access to dental care." A link for "Frequently asked questions" is visible at the bottom of the page. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 5:10 PM on 2/12/2021.

## Dental Pilot Projects Authorized in Oregon

**DPP #100** – Oregon Tribes Dental Health Aid Therapist Pilot Project – sponsored by NPAIHB

**DPP #200** – Training Dental Hygienists to Place Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITR) Pilot Project– sponsored by OHSU School of Dentistry & Capitol Dental Care

**DPP #300** – Dental Therapist Education Program for Restorative Dental Hygienists Pilot Project – sponsored by Pacific University & Willamette Dental Group

## Dental Pilot Project #100



**NPAIHB**  
*Indian Leadership for Indian Health*



Native Dental Therapy Initiative

### Oregon Tribes Dental Health Aid Therapist Pilot Project

This project is testing the efficacy of sending dental assistants who work in tribal dental clinics to Alaska to complete the Dental Health Aid Therapist (DHAT) Program, and then having these DHATs return to their tribal clinics to work as dental therapists.

### **Dental Pilot Project #200**



#### **Training Dental Hygienists to Place Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITR) Pilot Project**

This project is testing the effectiveness of expanded practice dental hygienists (EPDHs) placing interim therapeutic restorations (ITRs) for underserved patients in community settings when directed to do so by a collaborating dentist using teledentistry.

### **Dental Pilot Project #300**



#### **Dental Therapist Education Program for Restorative Dental Hygienists Pilot Project**

This project is testing the efficacy of preparing restorative dental hygienists to become dental therapists in a unique one-year training program that they can complete while they continue working as a dental hygienist.

## **Dental Therapy Bill in Oregon 2020**

### **Dental Therapist Legislation in Oregon 2020**

- In 2020 **Senate Bill 1549** was introduced in the Oregon Legislature & referred to the Senate Committee on Health Care
- A public hearing was held on February 4, 2020 with testimony from Oregon Tribes, ODHA, Pacific University, Oregon Primary Care Association & ODA
- SB 1549 “died in committee” when the legislature adjourned in March 2020

### **Dental Therapy Work Group**

- **Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson** created a work group of stakeholders who were charged with drafting a new dental therapy bill to be introduced in 2021
- Work group began meeting in June & continued to work through December
- Work group drafted what would become **House Bill 2528**

### **Dental Therapy Bill in Oregon 2021**

## Dental Therapist Legislation in Oregon 2021

- In 2021 **House Bill 2528** a dental therapist bill was introduced on behalf of the Oregon Dental Access Campaign
- During committee hearings, 19 separate amendments were proposed & 4 were adopted
- HB 2528 passed in the House 38-17 & passed in the Senate 20-9
- HB 2528 then went back to the House for a “concurrence” vote because the bill was amended by the Senate. It passed in the House 45-11.
- Governor Kate Brown signed House Bill 2528 on July 19, 2021



- Identity potential partners to form a coalition
- Develop a “one-pager”
- Understand the legislative process
- Monitor the Oregon Legislative Information System
- Subscribe to the Legislative Service Account
- Submit testimony for committee hearings
- Email your legislators to support the bill

## Form a Coalition & Develop a One-Pager

**OREGON DENTAL ACCESS CAMPAIGN**

### Expand Access to Basic Dental Care Across Oregon with Dental Therapy

One in four Oregonians don't have access to dental care—dental therapy will help

Dental therapists are primary oral health care professionals with the training to provide the basic dental care that many Oregonians can't get today— exams, fillings, and simple extractions. Oregon HB 2528 allows Oregon to license dental therapists to practice in the state.

**Oregon can't wait—our most dental therapy now**

- More than one million Oregonians live in areas that have a shortage of dentists.
- Low-income families in Oregon often lack access to basic dental care. Less than half of children, and about one in four adults, covered by Medicaid see a dentist each year.
- COVID-19 has made it even more difficult for people—especially low-income families and people of color—to access dental care. Increasing access to basic dental care reduces preventable dentures and other problems that turn into expensive trips to the emergency room, and long-term health problems.

**Dental therapy addresses current oral health care needs in rural and underserved communities and provides huge savings to the overall health system**

- Only one of Oregon dentists accept Medicaid patients before COVID-19 and the pandemic will likely decrease this further. Dental therapists provide cost savings, meeting dental office emergency therapies can serve more people, including those on Medicaid.
- Dental therapy is a training profession with a good salary. Dental therapists often practice in rural and underserved communities where they grow up.
- Dental therapists are now authorized to provide care in 12 U.S. states, and have practiced across the world for decades.
- Evidence shows that dental therapy prevents problems caused by untreated dental issues, improves people's overall health, and provides huge savings to the entire health system.

**Support HB 2528 and expand dental care access in Oregon**

- HB 2528 allows the state to license qualified dental therapists, expanding access statewide.
- HB 2528 requires all dental therapists to graduate from an approved education program before being licensed.
- HB 2528 requires dental therapists to work under the supervision of a dentist.

Learn more at <https://publicaccessforthe.com/>

**SUPPORTERS** **HB 2528**

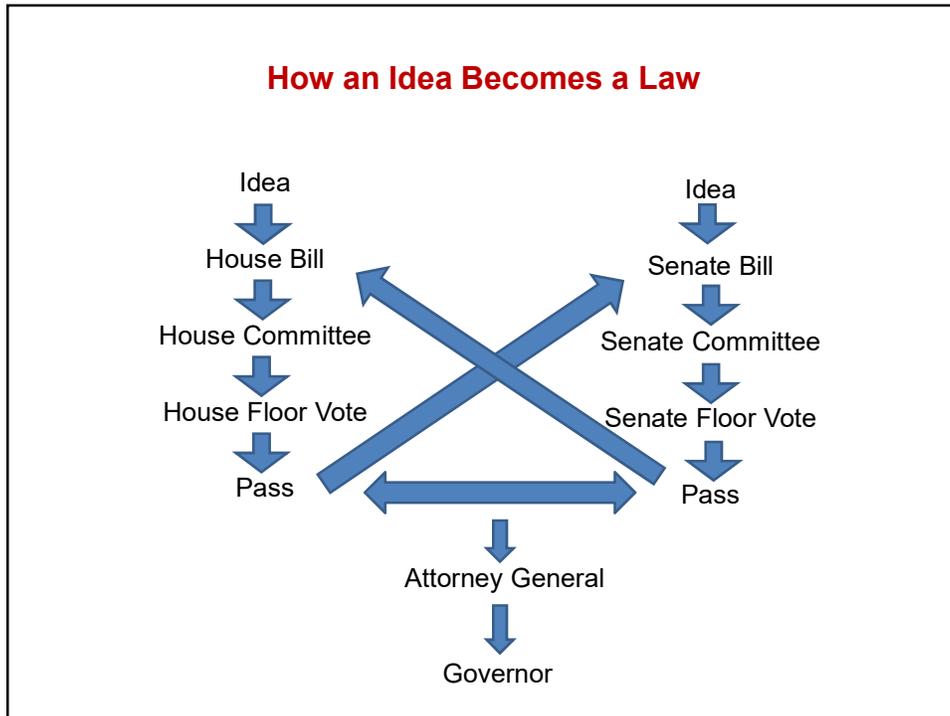
A broad coalition of Oregon health and dental care groups, children's advocates, educators, consumers and other support HB 2528 to expand access to dental care for more Oregonians.

Learn more at <https://publicaccessforthe.com/>

## Understand the Legislative Process

The screenshot shows the Oregon State Legislature website at [oregonlegislature.gov/citizen\\_engagement](http://oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement). The navigation bar includes: Senate, House, Bills and Laws, Committees, **Get Involved** (highlighted with a red arrow), and Capitol Offices. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar and several content blocks including 'Engage', 'Get Involved' (with a description of public participation), 'Building Information', 'Committee Information, Agendas, and Schedules', 'Capitol Emergency Notification', and 'Video & Audio Live and Archived Video and Audio'.





### Monitor the Oregon Legislative System (OLIS)

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/202111#](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/202111#). The page header includes the Oregon State Legislature logo and the text 'Oregon Legislative Information'. Below the header, there are navigation links: 'Expand Groups', 'Collapse Groups', 'Help', and 'Staff Login'.

- Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS)
- Search “2021 Oregon HB 2528”

## Overview of the Bill

**Oregon State Legislature**  
Oregon Legislative Information

2021 Regular Session

HB 530 Enrolled

Overview | Text | Analysis | Amendments | Testimony

**Overview**

At the request of:

**Chief Sponsors:** Representative Sanchez, Bynum

**Regular Sponsors:** Representative Alonso Leon, Campos, Dexter, Meek, Prusak, Soliman, Williams, Witt, Senator Dembrow, (Pre-session filed.)

**Bill Title:** Relating to dental therapy; and prescribing an effective date.

**Catchline/Summary:** Directs Oregon Board of Dentistry to issue dental therapist license to qualified applicant.

**Chapter Number:** Chapter 530

**Fiscal Impact:** Fiscal Impact Issued

**Revenue Impact:** No Revenue Impact

**Measure Analysis:** Staff Measure Summary / Impact Statements

**Current Location:** Chapter Number Assigned

**Current Committee:**

**Current Subcommittee:**

**Subsequent Referrals(s):**

**Potential Conflicts of Interest/Vote Explanations:** Potential Conflicts of Interest/Vote Explanation Documents

Measure History >

Scheduled Events >

## Text of the Bill

**Oregon State Legislature**  
Oregon Legislative Information

2021 Regular Session

HB 2528 Enrolled

Overview | Text | Analysis | Amendments | Testimony

Introduced

House Amendments to Introduced

**At the request of:** A-Engrossed

**Chief Sponsors:** Senate Amendments to A-Engrossed

**Regular Sponsors:** Senate Minority Amendments to A-Engrossed

**Bill Title:** Minority Report to B-Engrossed

**Enrolled**

Chapter Number: Chapter 530

Fiscal Impact: Fiscal Impact Issued

Revenue Impact: No Revenue Impact

### Amendments to the Bill

Oregon State Legislature  
Oregon Legislative Information  
Help | Staff Login

2021 Regular Session  
HB 2528 Enrolled

Overview Text Analysis **Amendments** Testimony

Amendments

Amendment	Meeting Date	Committee	Status	Posted Date and Time
-3	3/18/2021	House Committee On Health Care	Proposed	3/17/2021 3:11 PM
-3	3/23/2021	House Committee On Health Care	Proposed	3/23/2021 10:30 AM
-7	4/13/2021	House Committee On Health Care	Proposed	4/12/2021 7:08 PM
-9	4/13/2021	House Committee On Health Care	Adopted	4/13/2021 8:34 AM
-A10	5/10/2021	Senate Committee On Health Care	Proposed	5/6/2021 2:42 PM
-A11	5/24/2021	Senate Committee On Health Care	Proposed	5/19/2021 3:47 PM
-A12	5/24/2021	Senate Committee On Health Care	Proposed	5/19/2021 3:48 PM
-A10	5/24/2021	Senate Committee On Health Care	Proposed	5/21/2021 1:53 PM
-A13	5/24/2021	Senate Committee On Health Care	Proposed	5/21/2021 1:53 PM
-A10	5/26/2021	Senate Committee On Health Care	Proposed	5/25/2021 8:34 AM
-A11	5/26/2021	Senate Committee On Health Care	Proposed	5/25/2021 8:34 AM

### Testimony

Oregon State Legislature  
Oregon Legislative Information  
Help | Staff Login

2021 Regular Session  
HB 2528 Enrolled

Overview Text Analysis Amendments **Testimony**

Public Testimony

Title	Submitter	Meeting	Committee
Testimony	Rickland Asai DMD, on behalf of Myself as a dentist	3/4/2021	House Committee On Health Care
Testimony	Adam Fox	3/4/2021	House Committee On Health Care
Testimony	Scott Hansen	3/4/2021	House Committee On Health Care
Testimony	David Dowsett, on behalf of self	3/4/2021	House Committee On Health Care
Testimony	Russell Lieblick	3/4/2021	House Committee On Health Care
Testimony	BD Tiner, on behalf of AACMS	3/4/2021	House Committee On Health Care
Testimony	Lisa Rowley, on behalf of ODHA	3/4/2021	House Committee On Health Care
Testimony	Natasha Bramley	3/4/2021	House Committee On Health Care
Testimony	Octavia Lively	3/4/2021	House Committee On Health Care
Testimony	Andrea Laidlaw, on behalf of myself	3/4/2021	House Committee On Health Care
Testimony	Andrea Laidlaw, on behalf of myself	3/4/2021	House Committee On Health Care
Letter	Normund Auzins	3/4/2021	House Committee On Health Care

## Measure History

**Oregon State Legislature**  
Oregon Legislative Information  
Help | Staff Login

2021 Regular Session  
HB 2528 Enrolled

Overview Text Analysis Amendments Testimony

**Overview**

At the request of:

**Chief Sponsors:** Representative Sanchez, Bynum

**Regular Sponsors:** Representative Alonso Leon, Campos, Dexter, Meek, Prusak, Soliman, Williams, Witt, Senator Dembrow, (Presession filed.)

**Bill Title:** Relating to dental therapy; and prescribing an effective date.

**Catchline/Summary:** Directs Oregon Board of Dentistry to issue dental therapist license to qualified applicant.

**Chapter Number:** Chapter 530

**Fiscal Impact:** Fiscal Impact Issued

**Revenue Impact:** No Revenue Impact

**Measure Analysis:** Staff Measure Summary / Impact Statements

**Current Location:** Chapter Number Assigned

**Current Committee:**

**Current Subcommittee:**

**Subsequent Referrals(s):**

**Potential Conflicts of Interest/Vote Explanations:** Potential Conflicts of Interest/Vote Explanation Documents

**Measure History**

**Scheduled Events**

## Measure History

**Oregon State Legislature**  
Oregon Legislative Information  
Help | Staff Login

2021 Regular Session  
HB 2528 Enrolled

Overview Text Analysis Amendments Testimony

**Overview**

**Measure History**

1-11 (H)	First reading. Referred to Speaker's desk.
1-19 (H)	Referred to Health Care.
3-4 (H)	Public Hearing held.
3-18 (H)	Public Hearing held.
4-13 (H)	Work Session held.
4-19 (H)	Recommendation: Do pass with amendments and be printed A-Engrossed.
4-26 (H)	Second reading.
4-27 (H)	Third reading. Carried by Sanchez, Passed. Ayes, 38; Nays, 17—Bonham, Boshart Davis, Breese-Iverson, Cate, Drazan, Hayden, Levy, Moore-Green, Morgan, Post, Reschke, Smith G, Stark, Wallan, Wilde, Wright, Zika; Excused, 3—Clem, Leif, Nearman; Excused for Business of the House, 2—Evans, Lewis.
4-28 (S)	First reading. Referred to President's desk.
4-29 (S)	Referred to Health Care.
5-10 (S)	Public Hearing held.
5-12 (S)	Public Hearing held.
5-24 (S)	Work Session held.

## Subscribe to Legislative Service Account

**Oregon State Legislature** Search the Legislative Website

Senate House Bills and Laws Committees **Get Involved** Capitol Offices

**Engage**

- How to Testify Remotely
- How to Submit Testimony
- Find Bills or Votes
- Subscribe to Email Alerts
- Capitol Virtual Tour
- Building Use Policy
- Honorary Page Program
- Images of the Capitol
- Public Records Request
- Open Data

**Learn**

- How Ideas Become Law
- The Legislative Body
- Legislators through Time
- Legislative Process

**Get Involved**

The committee is strengthening ways to get engaged in your government, or plan your visit to the Capitol today.

**Engage**

- Capitol Virtual Tour
- How to Submit Testimony
- How to Testify Remotely
- Find Bills or Votes
- e-Subscribe to Alerts
- More

**Learn**

- How Ideas Become Law
- The Legislative Body
- Legislative Process
- Legislative Glossary
- Types of Measures
- More

**Audio and Video**

- Legislative Meetings
- News Conferences
- Informational Videos

**Publications and Reports**

- Press Releases
- More

**Video & Audio**

- Live and Archived Video and Audio

**e-Subscribe**

- Email News Alerts

**Capitol Maps**

- Rooms & Offices

**Building Information**

- Expand to View: Can I Visit The Capitol During Legislative Session?
- Expand to View: How Do I Make A Capitol

**Committee Information, Agendas, and Schedules**

- Expand to View: 01 How Can I Submit Written Testimony Online?

Capitol, please text #ORCapitol to 541-230-3627 to opt-in. Your subscription will be good for 48 hours from the time you opt-in.

**Oregon State Legislature** Search the Legislative Website

Senate House Bills and Laws Committees **Get Involved** Capitol Offices

**Engage**

- How to Testify Remotely
- How to Submit Testimony
- Find Bills or Votes

**Subscribe to Email Alerts**

- Capitol Virtual Tour
- Building Use Policy
- Honorary Page Program
- Images of the Capitol
- Public Records Request
- Open Data

**Learn**

- How Ideas Become Law
- The Legislative Body
- Legislators through Time
- Legislative Process
- Legislative Glossary
- Types of Measures
- Lobbying and Lobbyists

**Audio and Video**

- Legislative Meetings
- News Conferences
- Informational Videos

**Publications & Reports**

- View All

**Capitol e-Subscribe**

Sign up and receive email updates on news and information that interest you most.

For reference assistance, questions about the legislature, legislative process, or other government agencies, please email [help.leg@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:help.leg@oregonlegislature.gov) or call 1-800-332-2313.

Sign Up For Capitol e-Subscribe

**Bill Alerts - Stay Informed!**

Follow the bills you care about and receive an e-mail update when the status of your watched bill(s) change.

Bill Alert Features include:

- Easily select the Senate and House bills you want to follow
- Receive an e-mail update when your selected bill(s) moves through the legislative process
- Modify your list of watched bills at any time
- Choose the frequency the email updates for your watched bills (emails immediately, daily, or weekly)

View Status Triggers for Bill Alerts

**Other Information Topics Available with the Capitol e-Subscribe Service:**

- Committee Agenda Updates
- Legislative Member News and Press Release Updates
- Legislative Employment Opportunities

**Video & Audio**

- Live and Archived Video and Audio

**e-Subscribe**

- Email News Alerts

**Capitol Maps**

- Rooms & Offices

**Find Your Legislator**

Enter complete address

**OLIS** Oregon Legislative Information System

Bills, Votes, Committees, and Legislative History

## Email Alert from Legislative Service Account

The screenshot shows an Outlook email window. The subject line is "House Bill 2528 - Public Hearing scheduled." The sender is "Legislative Service Account <orstateleg@service.govdelivery.com>". The email content includes:

**House Bill 2528 - Public Hearing scheduled.**  
 02/19/2021 12:52 PM PST

Directs Oregon Board of Dentistry to issue dental therapist license to qualified applicant.  
[See this measure in OLIS](#)

You are subscribed to receive agendas for the House Bill 2528. This information has recently been updated, and is now available.

**SUBSCRIBER SERVICES OPTIONS:**

- To stop receiving this newsletter, add new newsletters, or modify your subscription services click [Manage Preferences](#)
- For questions about subscriber services, please email [Help](#)
- To delete your profile and stop receiving all messages and information from the Oregon State Legislature, click [Delete Profile](#)

Information provided may not be final and is subject to change.

This email was sent to [hsajpawley@pacifiou.edu](mailto:hsajpawley@pacifiou.edu) using GovDelivery - 707 17th St, Suite 4000 - Denver, CO 80202 - 1-800-439-1426

## Submit Testimony for Committee Hearing

### Testimony in Support of House Bill 2528 March 4, 2021

Chair Phusak and Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

For the record, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I reside in \_\_\_\_\_. I am a dental hygienist and I work in (Type of practice/type of patients).

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2528 that would amend the Dental Practice Act to create a licensed dental therapist for Oregon.

(Explain why. Share your personal experience. Use any of the points below.)

Access to Care

- Dental therapists will work with dentists the way that a physician assistant works with a dentist
- Dental therapists will provide basic restorative dental services which will free up their dentist to provide more complex restorative dental services
- Dental therapists can help dentists provide more dental care to more people at a lower cost

Education

- This bill will require dental therapists to have completed a dental pilot project, a CODA accredited dental therapy education program, or a dental therapy education program that is substantially equivalent to a CODA accredited program and that has been approved by the Oregon Board of Dentistry
- CODA accreditation standards require that dental therapy education programs include at least three academic years of full-time instruction or its equivalent at the college-level which is one year longer than the CODA accreditation standard for dental hygiene education programs.

Quality of Care

- This bill allows the Oregon Board of Dentistry to require written, lab or clinical exams to test the professional knowledge & skills of applicants for a dental therapy license.
- This bill requires dental therapists to work under the supervision of a dentist per a very detailed practice agreement.
- Dental therapists will only be allowed to do what their supervising dentist allows them to do
- Dentists will only delegate procedures to a dental therapist if they believe it is safe & appropriate for the patient.

Evidence

- Patient data from the past 10 years shows that dental clinics in Minnesota that employ dental therapists see more patients, provide more services, and increase gross revenues according to a study from the Pew Charitable Trusts.
- Dental Pilot Project #100 has shown that dental therapists in Oregon can provide safe & appropriate dental care under the supervision of a dentist.

In closing, I urge you to support House Bill 2528 because it will allow dentists to work with dental therapists to expand access to dental care in Oregon.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

## Email your Legislators to Support the Bill

---

### ODHA Advocacy Alert – Take Action Today!

#### Support Legislation for Dental Therapists June 4, 2021

**House Bill 2528** will allow the Oregon Board of Dentistry to license dental therapists so that they can work together with dentists in Oregon to address our state's growing need for dental care.

**House Bill 2528** passed in the House of Representatives, and now it needs to be passed by the Senate. We expect House Bill 2528 will move to the full Senate for a floor vote next week, and it may need to go back to the House of Representatives for a concurrence vote.

Email your state senator & state representative **TODAY** to ask them to **VOTE YES on House Bill 2528**. Click on the link below for a sample message to send to your legislators:

[Click here to email your legislators TODAY!](#)

---

Questions?

Reach out to Dani or Brittany at [info@odha.org](mailto:info@odha.org)

## Opposition from Oregon Dental Association (ODA)

- ODA representatives participated in the Dental Therapy Work Group that developed HB 2528
- ODA would **not** support this bill
- ODA agreed to take a “neutral” position if agreement could be reached on some areas of the bill

### **Arguments Against Bill**

- Allowing dental therapists to practice will create a “two-tier” system where some patients get better dental care than other patients
- Our expanded practice dental hygienists are already our midlevel dental providers
- Dental therapists only have one year of education after high school
- Dental therapists will “ruin dentistry as we know it”

### **Concessions to get ODA to Neutral Position**

- Some procedures were moved from general supervision to indirect supervision
- Some procedures were removed altogether
- “or comparable” was removed from CODA accredited dental therapy education program
- 51% of patients must represent underserved populations or located in dental care health shortage areas (HPSA)

## Dental Therapy Law In Oregon

### Dental Therapy Law in Oregon Educational Requirement

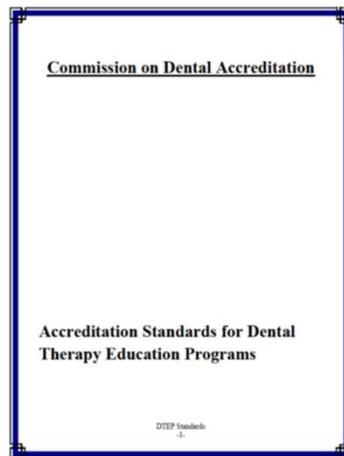
- Complete a dental therapy education program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)
- **OR**
- Complete an Oregon dental therapy pilot project.
  
- Dental therapy education programs accredited by CODA include a minimum of **three academic years of full-time instruction** at the post-secondary level or its equivalent.
- Dental hygienists may qualify for **advanced standing** but would probably still need to complete at least one academic year of full-time instruction.
- Only dental therapy education program in the U.S. currently accredited by CODA is Iisagvik College **Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program** (ADTEP).

### CODA Accredited Dental Education Programs

	Minimum Years of F-T Instruction
Dental Program	4 years
Dental Therapy Program	3 years
Dental Hygiene Program	2 years
Dental Assisting Program	1 year
(or its equivalent)	

### Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Education Programs

- Program Director must be a licensed dental therapist or a dentist with a master's degree or higher
- Curriculum must include **at least 3 years** of college-level full-time instruction or its equivalent
- Specifies required didactic content & clinical procedures
- **I̱̱isagvik College** in Alaska is currently the only CODA accredited dental therapy education program in the U.S.



**Source: Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)**

## **Dental Therapy Education Programs in the United States**

**Iñisaġvik College (Alaska)**  
**(currently the only CODA accredited program)**

Metropolitan State University & Normandale Community College

University of Minnesota School of Dentistry

Vermont Technical College

## **Dental Therapy Law in Oregon Board Exams for Licensure**

- To be determined by Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD)
- OBD may require written, lab or clinical examinations for dental therapy licensure
- OBD likely to accept OSCE or other non-patient clinical board examination
- Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) offers a Dental Therapy Exam with a manikin portion & a patient portion

### **Dental Therapy Law in Oregon Collaborative Agreement**

A dental therapist may only practice under the **supervision of a dentist** according to a collaborative agreement.

**Collaborative agreement** must include:

- what procedures are allowed
- what level of supervision is required for each procedure
- limitations on practice
- guidelines for managing dental records
- approved practice settings
- patient age-specific & procedure-specific practice protocols
- guidelines for handling medical emergencies
- a quality assurance plan
- protocols for dispensing & administering drugs
- referral protocols.

### **Dental Therapy Law in Oregon Patients**

Dental therapists must dedicate **at least 51%** of their practice to **patients who represent underserved populations** as defined by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) by rule, or **patients located in dental care health professional shortage areas (HPSAs)** as determined by OHA.

### Dental Therapy Law in Oregon Scope of Practice & Supervision

- **Scope of practice** includes a specific list of dental procedures with specified levels of supervision
- **Supervising dentist may require more supervision** (but not less) for any procedures as outlined in their collaborative agreement.
- **Supervising dentist may prohibit** dental therapist from performing any of these procedures, even if they are allowed by the law

### Dental Therapy Law in Oregon DT Procedures Under General Supervision

- Most dental hygiene procedures including local anesthesia, pulp vitality testing, desensitizing agents, athletic mouth guards, periodontal dressing changes, suture removal
- Minor adjustments & repairs of removable prosthetic devices, & removal of space maintainers
- Interim restorative therapy (ITR)
- Direct restorations in primary and permanent teeth
- Indirect pulp capping on permanent and primary teeth
- Preparation and placement of preformed crowns on primary teeth
- Fabrication and placement of single-tooth temporary crowns
- Simple extractions erupted primary anterior teeth & coronal remnants primary teeth
- Emergency palliative treatment of dental pain
- Other services as specified by the Oregon Board of Dentistry by rule

Please see complete list in HB 2528 at:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2528/Enrolled>

**Dental Therapy Law in Oregon**  
**DT Procedures Under Indirect Supervision**

- Place temporary restorations
- Fabricate & soft occlusal guards
- Tissue reconditioning & soft reline
- Tooth reimplantation & stabilization
- Recementing of permanent crowns
- Pulpotomies on primary teeth
- Simple extractions of:
  - Erupted posterior primary teeth
  - Permanent teeth that have horizontal movement of greater than two millimeters or vertical movement and that have at least 50 percent periodontal bone loss
- Brush biopsies
- Direct pulp capping on permanent teeth

Please see complete list in HB 2528 at

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2528/Enrolled>

**Dental Therapy Law in Oregon**  
**Procedures Prohibited for Dental Therapists**

- Administration of nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation
- Placement of space maintainers
- Direct pulp capping on primary teeth

Please see complete list in HB 2528 at

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2528/Enrolled>

## What's Next?

### Implementing the Law



**Oregon Legislature**  
passed House Bill 2528

HB 2528 amends the Law to create  
dental therapist

Oregon Law is also called  
Oregon Revised Statutes (**ORS**)



**Oregon Board of Dentistry**  
will develop  
Oregon Administrative Rules (**OAR**)  
to implement this new Law

Rules can be **restrictive** or **expansive**, but  
rules **cannot conflict** with the Law

## Oregon Board of Dentistry



The Oregon Board of Dentistry will:

- adopt administrative rules
- may select a board exam for licensure
- develop a licensure process
- issue licenses to dental therapists
- regulate dental therapy practice in Oregon

## Resources

American Dental Hygienists' Association  
[www.adha.org](http://www.adha.org)

Commission on Dental Accreditation  
[www.ada.org/en/coda](http://www.ada.org/en/coda)

Community Catalyst  
[www.communitycatalyst.org](http://www.communitycatalyst.org)

Minnesota Dental Therapy Association  
[www.mndta.org](http://www.mndta.org)

National Partnership for Dental Therapy  
[www.dentaltherapy.org](http://www.dentaltherapy.org)

Northwest Portland Area  
Indian Health Board  
[www.npaihb.org](http://www.npaihb.org)

Oregon Board of Dentistry  
[www.oregon.gov/dentistry](http://www.oregon.gov/dentistry)

Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association  
[www.odha.org](http://www.odha.org)

Oregon State Legislature  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov)

Pew Charitable Trusts  
[www.pewtrusts.org](http://www.pewtrusts.org)