

2020 Legislative Session Report

By Jennifer Lewis-Goff, ODA Government Affairs Director

THE OREGON LEGISLATURE CONVENED FOR A SHORT session on February 3rd. 232 bills were introduced. On March 5th, after almost two weeks of Republicans denying quorum, Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Tina Kotek adjourned the Legislature for the 2020 session. A total of three bills were passed into law over the session.

Senate and House Republicans walked out of the Capitol in protest to SB 1530, the “Cap and Trade” bill. Ultimately the two parties were unable to find middle ground, and all bills

pending in the legislative process died with the adjournment of session.

ODA was active in the Capitol all session, focused on three primary bills:

- SB 1549: Dental Therapy
- SB 1550: EPDHs doing ITRs
- HB 4127: Oral health in schools

SB 1549 would have authorized dental therapy in Oregon. The bill was drafted without full stakeholder input and was incredibly complicated, trying to fit multiple models of dental therapy into one bill. ODA opposed this bill and successfully killed the bill in committee. We faced significant

opposition, but we remained steadfast in our message:

If the State of Oregon wants to have a discussion about dental therapy and overall access to care, it needs to be a thoughtful dialogue with all stakeholders, including Oregon dentists. Training, education, scope of practice, supervision — all of those details matter. We cannot rush such a complicated policy through a short legislative session.

The chair of the Senate Health Care Committee is creating an interim workgroup to explore dental therapy



SAVE *The* DATE

2021 ODA Dental Day at the Capitol
Thursday, February 4, 2021

Save the date to join your ODA colleagues in a day of advocacy at the state capitol educating yourself, legislators, and their staff on critical issues impacting dentistry.

for a new bill to be introduced in the 2021 legislative session. ODA has committed to being at the table for that discussion. For more information see ODA's website.

Thank you to all ODA members and students who testified, met with legislators, and wrote letters on SB 1549! You made a difference!

SB 1550 introduced by Capitol Dental and modeled after their pilot project, would have added interim therapeutic restorations, ITRs (scoop and fill) to the scope of expanded practice dental hygienists working under a collaborative agreement with a dentist. The ODA supported the bill after a final report from the project

was published, and the bill was amended to ensure the dentist retains diagnosis authority and requiring the EPDH to take appropriate training. The bill died due to lack of quorum the final two weeks of session.

HB 4127 sponsored by a newly formed pediatric dental coalition, including the ODA, had three primary components:

1. Directs the Oregon Department of Education to incorporate oral health curriculum into education standards by 2024.
2. Directs the Oregon Health Authority to seek federal funds to implement four community dental health coordinators (CDHCs) into school-based programs — two in rural areas and two in urban areas. CDHCs are a dental specific navigator proven to help with closed

loop referrals, decrease no-show rates, and generally help the patient and their family better understand the health care delivery system.

3. Allows CCOs to utilize resources to support school-based programs.

Along with the rest of the bills, HB 4127 died in the process due to lack of quorum.

The Legislature may convene for a special session prior to the next regularly scheduled session in January of 2021. If they do, ODA will be there following any bills that may affect you, your practice, or the oral health of Oregonians. In the meantime, ODA will be participating in interim workgroups and developing our own proactive 2021 legislative agenda. Attend ODA's House of Delegates to weigh in on some of these important topics. 🗣️