Testimony on Senate Bill 98

Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee

Ohio Senate

Proponent Testimony

February 6th, 2018 3:15PM

Ohio Statehouse

South Hearing Room

Hello my name is Pastor Charlotte Rudolph.

Thank you Chairman Burke and members of the Committee for considering Senate Bill 98.

I am here to express my support of allowing Dental Therapists to practice in Ohio that are trained and authorized to provide specific dental treatments under the supervision of a dentist.

I personally would feel comfortable receiving treatment from a dental therapist because I would trust that any Dentist in Ohio who hired a dental therapist would train and supervise them with the same excellence that they offer their patients every day.

Also, this solution is very much needed and it makes sense to those in my community who are struggling to find dental care. When I talk to people in my congregation, in my community and even other congregations about the possibility of a Dental Therapist, all of them said they would gladly receive this type of dental care.

Some of the barriers to dental care that I hear about in my congregation are, “all of the dentists that I called near my home don’t accept Medicaid and now I have to find transportation to get to a dentist and pay for it out of my money for food”, or “I have to wait one or two months to see a dentist at the dental clinic even if I have a toothache.

If there are more dental professionals providing care, more patients can be seen and folks won’t have to spend their food money for dental care or wait in pain up to 2 months for an appointment.

Thank you.