



January 31, 2024

Representative Linda Chaney
Florida House of Representatives
200 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Representative Chaney:

Thank you for your time last week when we met and discussed HB 1173 Dental Therapy. As we discussed, the Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value is a 501c3 research and education organization and Florida's business coalition on health. Our mission over the past 40 years has been to strive to make our state a world-class leader in healthcare quality and affordability through collaboration, innovation, transparency, and action.

We are all too aware that there is a shortage of dental providers in the state. In fact, Floridians for Dental Access states that Florida leads the nation in the number of individuals who live in a designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Area at nearly 6 million Floridians. Our employer members have lives in all 67 of Florida's counties. Poor oral health impacts an individual's physical and mental health and can also be life threatening, so the need for increasing access to dental services statewide is critically important. Dental therapists are a cost-effective way to increase access to needed dental services and can reduce expensive emergency department visits and help dentists expand their businesses and capacity.

The Florida Alliance enthusiastically supports HB 1173. I have reached out to our employer members this week and the following organizations have expressed support so far:

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Thank you for your important work in health care in Florida. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Karen van Cautel

