

It's time for dental therapy!



Washington
DENTAL ACCESS
Campaign www.wadentalaccess.com

Dental therapy will allow greater access to oral health care, save millions in taxpayers dollars, and help address racial and economic disparities. Authorizing dental therapy in Washington is revenue neutral, there is no impact to the general fund.

Support access to oral health care. Authorize dental therapy in Washington.

Over 40 organizations have come together in support of authorizing dental therapy in Washington, including:

Children's Alliance

Health Coalition for Children and Youth

League of Women Voters

MomsRising

Sea Mar Community Health Centers

SEIU Healthcare 775NW

SEIU Healthcare 1199NW

SW Washington Communities United for Change

Statewide Poverty Action Network

UFCW 21

Washington Community Action Network

Washington State Budget & Policy Center

Washington Dental Hygienists' Association

Washington State Labor Council

Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby

YWCA Clark County

Dental therapists are critical to expanding access to dental care where it is most out of reach, providing timely, quality care to rural, low-income communities and communities of color, and to patients who have coverage through Apple Health or are uninsured.

House Bill 1317 and **Senate Bill 5392** would expand dental care access by authorizing dental therapists, primary oral health professionals who complement the work of other health care providers. Dental therapists provide routine, preventive and restorative care as part of a dentist-led team.



"I lived in pain for three years while saving up money to pay for the dental care I needed. If my community had a dental therapist, my son and I would have access to affordable, quality oral health care—without sacrificing other bills."
-Kristen

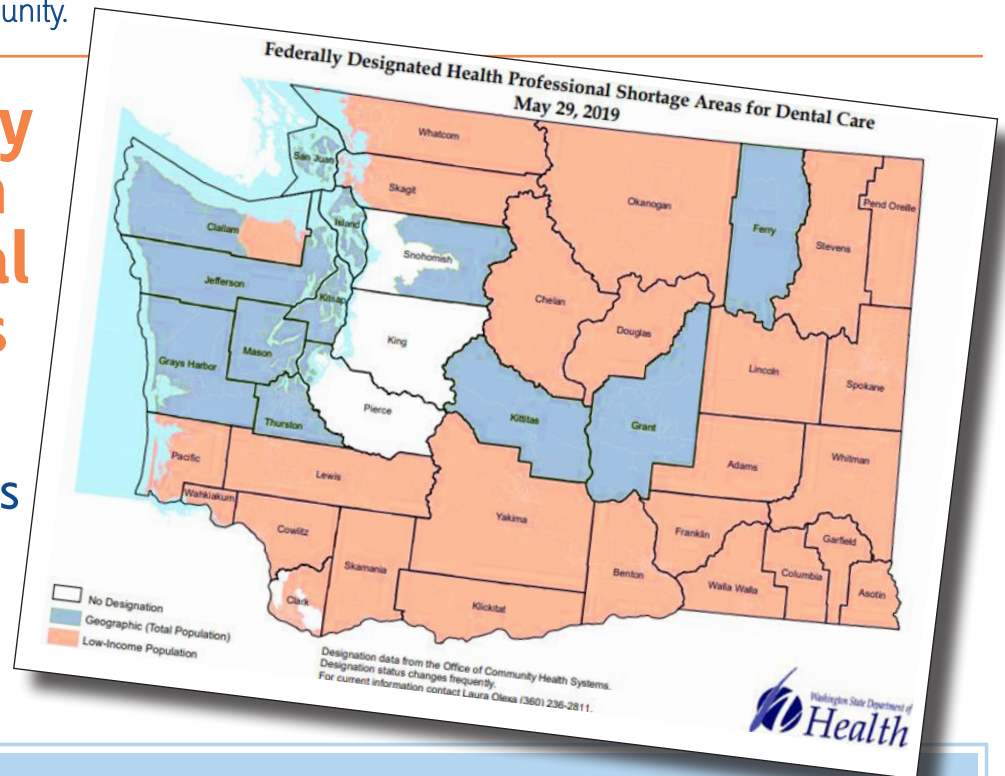
Kristen at her University of Washington graduation with her son

What is Dental Therapy?

Dental therapists are primary oral health care providers that deliver routine preventive and restorative care to those who need it most. The profession was first introduced to the United States in 2005 and in 2015, the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) established national standards for dental therapy education programs. Dental therapists are already working in Washington for the Colville Tribes, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

For too many Washington families, oral health care is out of reach.

37 out of 39 counties have too few dental professionals to meet local needs.



Oral Health Facts

- Dental problems are the #1 reason people without insurance visit the ER, costing WA taxpayers \$35 million annually.
- 85% of the services dental therapists provide are routine and preventive to curb painful and costly treatments.
- According to a March 2019 poll, 62% of Washington voters support dental therapy.



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