

To whom it may concern,

It is with great concern for my profession that I plead for the opposition of this bill. I am a female, solo, private practice practitioner who recently started my own practice. With the landscape as it is, while still deep in to the covid pandemic, I am having an extremely difficult time finding qualified staff to assist and help me within my practice. Qualified dental assistants and hygienist are difficult to find and when we do, we have to pay an extremely high wage to secure them and maintain them because of staff shortages right now. If this bill were to pass it would add to this stress because these dental therapists would also require chair side assistance when working and would be working in offices that could secure higher wages either through corporate set ups or government funded FQHC clinics. It would be another wrench in the works that decreases the private practice model vitality.

Not only this but the qualifications required to become a DHAT do not meet standards I would feel comfortable with as a patient and then we are hoping to have these individuals treating our largest demographic for health concerns and therefore puts patient at higher risk of medical problems. Would you feel comfortable having a minimally trained "health professional" doing irreversible work on you? Probably not. But this bill would not give these patients the choice. It puts another notch in segregation of care and I didn't go in to this field to feel comfortable with this.

Thank you for your time.

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