

Submitter: Loretta Johnson
On Behalf Of: Concerned Dental Professionals and Dental Patients
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB441

OPPOSE SB 441

I am Registered Dental Hygienist in Oregon and have been actively practicing since 1987. I am dedicated to providing excellent care and best practices. As a private practice, expanded practice, and Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Educator at two of Oregon's Community Colleges for the past 8 years I see too much at stake if SB 441 passes.

Oregon's Community College Dental Programs are graduating students with the highest standards, equity, professionalism, and truly sought-after talents. Dental Assistants are the backbone of any dental practice and Oregon Citizens deserves the best!

SB 441 is an awful proposal and should not be imposed on the Citizens of Oregon. This Bill proposes spending 6700,000 of Tax Payers Money for something that is already in place, and in place with a standard!

First, it is proposing online "dental assistant training modules". This training will not be certified by the The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) "The Commission on Dental Accreditation serves the public and dental professions by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs." Again Oregon attempts to lower it educational standards, hence lower the quality of care to the people of Oregon.

Portland Community College already provides online classes and it has the high standards expected to achieve a degree. Proudly PCC online Dental Assisting Program and All Community College Dental Assisting Programs are Certified by The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Moreover, there is already a pathway for folks seeking a dental assisting career and EFTA Certification. To do so these can be obtained in office, under the supervision of an Oregon licensed dentist.

Who could suffer if Senate Bill 441 passes ultimately the patients!

Another issue Senate Bill 441 brings is that it is requiring the Department of Education to fund this portions of the Bill: more money to cover dental sealants in the public school setting. Again, this is a waste of Oregon Tax Payers Money because

this is already being taken care of by The Oregon Oral Health Coalition (OrOHC), Oral Health Funders Collaborative and Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

SB 441 is the wrong choice for Oregonians. There are better ways to help the underserved communities of Oregon. Let's go back to the drawing board and get it right.

Oppose Senate Bill 441

Respectfully,

Loretta Johnson, RDH, BSDH, EPP