

Submitter: Charlsy Affuso
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB441

Chair Hayden and Girod,

My name is Charlsy Affuso. For 24 years I was a Restorative Dental Assistant. I "retired" in 2020. I started my dental career in 1996 in Lubbock, TX during high school. Back then, dental assisting was a "learn on the job" career. As time went on and I moved from state to state, I was faced with having to be certified. Luckily, I was able to sit for my boards with no need for class room instruction.

Dental Assisting is a valuable asset to any dental office. If I say so myself, a dental office cannot function without them. We do not make a lot of money, being that local dentists do not pay accordingly. In my experience, when I would have externs in my office from DA schools, they have not been properly trained. Being able to learn a craft in dental, hands must be on the tools and the patient. In other state, I stopped accepting externs in my office. It took longer to break bad habits then it would have if I trained them in my office.

In Oregon, DA school is 9 months. Depending on the program, the student is going to pay in the upwards of \$10,000. Most will come out of school already in debt that the modest pay of a dental assistant will take them years to pay off. Isn't this the systemic problem we are trying to combat?

I am in full support of SB 441. As it will direct State Workforce and Talent Development Board to create and maintain dental assistant training module available to public free of cost.

Thank you for support of SB 441 and all that you do for Oregon.

With warm regards,
Charlsy Affuso