

2/6/23

Dear Representative Rob Nosse, chair, and the members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2996.

My name is Bonnie Marshall and I want to speak on behalf of dental patients in Oregon.

When a patient arrives in an office for treatment, that patient should know that the people who are performing their treatment are well trained. Dental professionals need to assure patients that dentistry will provide quality care in a safe environment. In the state of Oregon, a dentist and hygienist must hold a license and follow the standards and rules established by the Oregon Board of Dentistry. However, dental assistants can be on-the-job trained and do not hold a license, therefore the standards in Division 42, Dental Assisting, are imperative.

By providing standards for Dental Assistants, the Oregon Board of Dentistry is promoting quality oral health and protecting all patients in the field of dentistry as well as promoting the Oregon Radiation Protection Service Agency Standards.

The world has just gone through three years of uncertainty for dental offices, dental professional and health care facilities. As the world becomes more stable, we as dental professionals need to assure our patients that dentistry will provide quality care in a safe environment.

X-rays in a dental office are being performed by qualified dental assistants under General Supervision. "General Supervision means that a supervising dentist has examined and diagnosed the patient providing subsequent instructions to be performed by a dental assistant but does not require that the dentist or hygienist be physically present in the treatment facility." Patients rarely question their treatment; therefore, it is extremely important that a patient trusts the person that is exposing their radiographs and know that the operator or assistant has the proper qualifications to do so without harm.

Division 42 rules provide the proper direction for dental assistants to prove that they are qualified to successfully perform tasks where patients could otherwise be harmed by improper treatment. Division 42 requirements for dental assistants provide clarification on what can be done by qualified dental assistants to perform tasks on patients safely.

The Dental Radiology Health and Safety Exam is the foundation for the dental assisting rules in Division 42. Eliminating standards will weaken the quality of care and safety for Oregon patients.

The Dental Assisting Certificates stated in Division 42 require that a dental assistant hold a Certification of Radiologic Proficiency (OAR 818-042-0060), complete a course of instruction approved by the Oregon Board of Dentistry, successfully pass an exam and successfully prove competency by completing tasks clinically.

The Oregon Dental Assistants Association wants to thank the Oregon Board of Dentistry for recognizing the need for Chapter 818, Division 42, 818-042-0050 Rule 813-042-0050: Taking of X-rays- Exposing of Radiographic Images, as a way of promoting quality care and safety for all dental patients.

House Bill 2996_wants to eliminate the required Dental Radiation Health and Safety Exam, therefore jeopardizing patient quality care and safety. The elimination of the Dental Radiation Health and Safety Exam will also make it difficult to maintain the Mission of the Oregon Board of Dentistry; *“The Mission of the Oregon Board of Dentistry is to promote quality oral health care and protect all communities in the State of Oregon by equitably and ethically regulating dental professionals.”*

I, Bonnie Marshall, want to give a voice to Oregon dental patients: I do not want to worry about my quality of care or safety while visiting my dental office.
I am asking that the committee does not move House Bill 2996 forward.

Respectfully,
Bonnie Marshall, RDA, CDA, EFDA, EFODA, MADAA, BS
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