



February 6, 2023

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care Oregon State Legislature

RE: House Bill 2996

Dear Chairman Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, and Vice-Chair Nelson:

I am writing on behalf of the Legislative Committee with the Oregon Society of Radiologic Technologists. We would like to express our concern and opposition for House Bill 2996 which would prohibit the Oregon Board of Dentistry from requiring certification for dental assistants to pass written examination for radiological proficiency. The proposed bill, as written, would impact countless Oregonians.

Requiring certification is a way to ensure competency for personnel operating equipment which is essential when considering they are utilizing ionizing radiation. Although radiation levels utilized in dental offices might be low compared to most diagnostic imaging procedures, the level of repeat rates and accumulated dose is directly related to the operator's skill and knowledge. X-rays can't be felt, seen or heard which can be deceiving and leave patients vulnerable to over exposure of radiation. Patients are unaware if an operator, or dental assistant, is not competent. The majority of patients don't know the minimum number of images needed or how much radiation should be applied for each of the images. They trust in the operating personnel to have a thorough understanding of the equipment and application of radiation. They trust in the legislators to ensure operators meet minimum safety standards while using radiation through certification. Although training levels can vary, having a certification exam ensures at least the minimum standards have been met. Oregonians rely on our legislators to advocate and provide a safe environment in various healthcare settings and dental offices should be no exception.

Respectfully,

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