

Submitter: Sarah Kinkade

On Behalf Of: dental assistant

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2996

as a chairside dental assistant for 39 years I oppose this bill. Oregon already does not require assistants to be Certified Dental Assistants through DANB but they use DANB standardized testing for current radiology licensing and for EFDA duties, I believe this should continue. To adopt this bill would be to devalue the dental assistant profession and put the public at risk. Learning to take dental X-rays should be started on a dental mannequin not live patients. (just as it is done in hygiene and dental programs) Dental assistants already do not earn a living wage or receive adequate benefits in many dental offices within Oregon and this bill would continue this trend.

I am sensitive to rural Oregon dental practices that need quality assistants without nearby state dental assisting programs and do not oppose making exceptions for rural Oregon with strict guidelines. I have concerns this bill would be abused if passed.