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On Behalf Of: Self, Dental Assisting Instructor, Salem

Committee: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2996

The safety of members in my community is important to me, this is why I oppose HB2996. Allowing a person who has not been trained and tested regarding the effects of ionizing radiation not only increases health risks for patients but also to themselves as the dental assistant. Every other member of the dental team (dentists, dental hygienists) is required to pass a radiological safety and proficiency exam before they can expose patients to ionizing radiation, why should the dental assistant be the only exception? Passing this bill would make no logical sense. Not only that, but it also devalues and lowers respect for our profession by lowering the quality of care. Although this may seem like an easy fix to be able to hire dental assistants more quickly, states that don't require an exam in dental radiography continue to suffer from the same workforce shortages as we are in Oregon. This is proof that by lowering the quality of care, we would be gaining nothing and jeopardizing our patients' safety in the process. Those that are considering passing this bill should ask themselves if they are willing to sit in a dental chair and expose themselves to ionizing radiation at the hands of someone who doesn't know the power it can wield.