

Submitter: Barbara Sigurdson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2996

The role of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to protect human health and the environment. This is a federal government agency that enforces federal environmental laws. The report entitled, "*Radiation Protection Guidance for Diagnostic and Intervention X-Ray Procedures; Federal Guidance Report No. 14*", outlines the risks of ionizing radiation patients receive and it states that one of the risks of "ionizing radiation [is that it] can cause damage to deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), [and] exposure may increase a person's lifetime risk of developing cancer," (2014) no matter how small the dose.

Quality Assurance (QA) ensures minimal exposure to patients by eliminating unproductive radiation exposure. One of the most important steps in QA is to ensure proficiency of the operator through proper educational training. The "H.R.2457-Consumer Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act of 1981", directs the "Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate: (1) minimum standards for the accreditation of educational programs to train individuals to perform radiologic procedures; (2) minimum standards for the certification of persons who administer radiologic procedures; and (3) Federal radiation guidelines with respect to radiologic procedures" (1981) ensuring a patient is receiving the lowest dose of radiation achievable while still obtaining diagnostic images.

I strongly oppose House Bill 2996 and ask that you vote no, to ensure the integrity of the dental profession and to protect everyone's health and safety.

References

Federal Guidance Report No. 14: Radiation Protection Guidance for Diagnostic and Interventional X-Ray Procedures. (2014). United States Environmental Protection Agency. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-05/documents/fgr14-2014.pdf>

H.R.247-Consumer Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act of 1981. (1981). CONGRESS.GOV. Retrieved from <https://www.congress.gov/bill/97th-congress/house-bill/2457?s=1&r=165>