

Submitter: Norman Magnuson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3223

My name is Norman D Magnuson DDS. I am a dentist in Eugene Oregon and oppose House Bill 3223 I am a Past President of the Oregon Board of Dentistry, Past President of the American Association of Dental Boards and Past President of Western Regional Exam Board (WREB). I have spent over 25 years in some form of organized dentistry. We give standardized test for our children's education, you must take a test to enter a university, and I had to take a test to get into dental school (DAT) and in order to practice dentistry I had to take an independent 3rd party assessment (WREB) to get a license. How would you assess a candidate for certification? From experience, I can tell you, you cannot always depend on the educational institution to confirm someone's competency in any subject. We found that approximately 2-3% on candidates taking the WREB exam never passed that exam, even after years of trying. These candidates were from accredited dental schools. I know that dental assistants are not as critical to patient care but they do play a role in patient safety and care. This is especially true when it comes to taking impressions, removing cement, trying in crowns and any of the other functions a certified dental assistant can do. The dental assisting educational programs in this state are accredited through the American Dental Association (CODA). These students still take a 3rd party independent exam through Dental Assisting National Board (DANB). I am not convinced that busy dental offices can guarantee a thorough basic knowledge of dental assisting. Before certification can be achieved there needs to be some kind of assurance the person understands the subject and is capable to perform the tasks at hand. Please do not belittle our profession by allowing certification based only on a non-accredited program or teaching from a dentist who may not have the time or competence to teach. Anything worth achieving must have a process to show their proficiency in that subject. Thank You