

Submitter: Leslee Huggins

On Behalf Of: Self

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2996

As a pediatric dentist for over 20 years in multiple states, the shortage of dental assistants has made an unprecedented impact on my practice which provides dental care to the highest risk, neediest, and most vulnerable population of children and those with special needs. After learning about the many dental assisting programs available around our state, I volunteered to be part of the solution teaching at PCC in the ICDA program. These programs are rigorous as they should be when training future dental assistants to provide the safest and best care for patients especially with regards to radiation exposure. A dental assistant who is not able to pass a written examination for radiological proficiency is someone who SHOULD NOT be allowed to expose a patient to irreversible radiation. Without an exam to establish this caliber of training blatantly invites patient errors. I oppose HB 2996.