

Submitter: Audrey Ferguson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2996

I am a dental professional in Oregon, and I urge you to vote no on this House Bill because it:

Puts patient health and safety at risk

Lowers the quality of patient care

Undermines and devalues the dental assisting profession

Will worsen the shortage of qualified providers

Dental assistants are critical members of the dental team and the duties they perform require specialized knowledge. Lowering the certification standard minimizes the value of their role in the practice and undercuts the profession, which will lead to even more workforce issues.

With the shortage there already is, there is no time for an overwhelmed assistant to teach an uneducated individual the ropes and knowledge needed to be an assistant. It is so important to know the anatomy and science of dental. It takes a year of full time schooling to barely understand.

Patients have such a fear of the dentist already, adding someone with 0% of dental knowledge is UNSAFE. Infections will rise.

I strongly urge you to vote no.

Thank you for your careful consideration of what is best for the health of Oregonians.