

HB3223 - Dental Assisting is a career that needs advancement opportunities. Don't deny that!

Currently there are *no certification, education or training requirements* for the basic level of Dental Assisting in Oregon. *Training can be obtained on the job per Oregon Board of Dentistry Chapter 818 Division 42.* [Oregon Secretary of State Administrative Rules.](#)

This means there are **NO BARRIERS to employment** for any person choosing to apply to a dental office to work and be trained as a dental assistant (DA).

There are **NO BARRIERS to hiring**; a dental office can hire ANYONE and train them to be a dental assistant..

The average age of a dental assistant is 37! Right now dental assisting is a stable, long-term career!
<https://www.zippia.com/dental-assistant-jobs/demographics/>

Dental Assisting is a **CAREER not a JOB**. The healthcare field typically employs *lifelong* employees *that will become experts in their field*.

Removing certification requirements removes an opportunity to advance in the career of dental assisting. Already a career with very limited upward mobility, gaining expanded function certification allows for advancement in a long-term career.

Stripped of the opportunity to set themselves apart by advancing to becoming certified as an expanded function dental assistant. *This entry level career* in the dental field will be **demoted to a MINIMUM WAGE job**.

By testing for the Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA) certification, an employee shows employers that they encompass the attitude for growth, and have grit and strength of purpose. **Certification provides a reliable validation of skills all dentists can be confident in.**

Economic impact-Multnomah County:

\$48,780- Annual mean wage of an Oregon dental assistant.

-Oregon is one of the "Top paying states for dental assistants". [Dental Assistants \(bls.gov\)](#)

A full time dental assistant, supporting a three person household in Multnomah County earning the annual mean wage, **qualifies in 2022 as Oregon Household Income Guidelines' -200% Federal Poverty Level**. And they qualify for SNAP benefits. [SNAP \(food stamps\) in Multnomah County | Multnomah County \(multco.us\)](#)

\$46,276.- The per capita mean income level for one of the LARGEST counties in Oregon (Multnomah). [Multnomah County Oregon Household Income | Department of Numbers \(deptofnumbers.com\)](#)

Stripped of opportunity; *this entry level career* in the dental field will be **demoted to a MINIMUM WAGE job**. The number of **LIFE-LONG career** dental assistants **will decrease**.

This bill *will not help the quantity* of employees for jobs but instead *will severely stunt the quality* jobs available and applicants alike.

HB3223 Will continue fanning the flame of disparity between assistants and dentists.