

Submitter: Erin Jackson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3223

HB 3223 Prohibits the Oregon Board of Dentistry from requiring a dental assistant to pass an examination to be certified for expanded functions.

Please accept my testimony opposing HB 3223. I am just starting my career as a dental assistant, and will soon be certified as an Expanded Function Dental Assistant. Through my education I am learning how to provide these services carefully, so I do not cause damage to the teeth or surrounding structures of my patients. I have also been taught to avoid cross contamination to protect myself, my patients, and everyone else I work with. These are important issues that I take very seriously. After passing my board exams, I will be certified as an Expanded Function Dental Assistant. I want to see the functions that I am allowed to provide continue to grow over time to allow me to advance in my career. This is not likely to happen if there are no examinations required to ensure that dental assistants can provide expanded functions properly and safely. The Oregon Board of dentistry created the credentials that I am working hard for. They increase the professionalism and respect for my career. Please do not lower the standards of my profession.

Please oppose HB 3223 and maintain a high quality for dental assistants certified to perform Expanded Functions.

Thank you,

Erin Jackson