

April 18, 2023

Dear Legislator,

I am a community college Instructional Dean and urge you to vote no on HB 2996 and HB 3223 as they would cause many harmful effects such as putting patient health and safety at risk, lowering the quality of patient care, undermining and devaluing the dental assisting profession, and worsening the existing 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.

I strongly urge you to vote no.

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

Julie Downing

Julie Downing, PhD, FACSM

Instructional Dean (she, her, hers)

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