



**OREGON
DENTAL ASSISTANTS
ASSOCIATION**

4/19/2023

Dear Senator Patterson, chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Bonnie Marshall and I represent the Oregon Dental Assistants Association. I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2996 and 3223.

The Oregon Dental Assistants Association is proud to align our mission statement with the Oregon Board of Dentistry: “To promote quality oral health care and protect all communities in the State of Oregon.” ODAA believes that by providing education and resources for all dental assistants in Oregon our association helps the profession of dental assisting and therefore ultimately helps protect patients and the people working in the dental office.

The testimony that was presented continues to state that these two bills will. “Open the pipe line” for more people to become dental assistants. ODAA believes that there are many reasons for the shortage of dental assistants and whether a person can or can not pass an exam is not one of them.

The shortage of dental assistants has nothing to do with an “Exam” that dental assistants “cannot pass”. The Radiology Proficiency Exam has an 86% pass rate in Oregon.

“There are no rural resources for the Radiology Exam”.

The following resources are easily found:

- *DANB has a downloadable study guide for free.
- *DANB has prep courses for a fee.
- *ADAA has courses for free if you are a member of your association.
- *OHSU offers hybrid radiology classes any time on zoom.
- *A dentist can apply to become an instructor for Radiology with the OBD.
- *ODAA has offered classes on zoom and in rural areas.

If House Bill 2996 passes it will remove the current requirement that a dental assistant demonstrate an understanding of ionizing radiation and safety factors by passage of the Dental Radiation Health and Safety Examination.

If House Bill 3223 passes it will remove all exams set forth in Division 42 of the Practice Act.

“If a person is unable to pass an exam does that mean that they will not make a good dental assistant?” Exams are a tool that are used in all forms of education i.e.: Dental school, medical assisting, Nursing, getting a driver’s license, getting a beauty license, getting most certificates. “An examination is an educational assessment intended to measure a test-takers knowledge, skill, aptitude, physical fitness or classification in many other topics.”

“There is no evidence that that dental assistants have done harm.” Could that be because the rules and standards set forth by the Oregon Board of Dentistry and Division 42 protect the quality of patient care and provide dental treatment in a safe environment? If the OBD has rules and standards that are working, why are we wanting to change them. Change can be good and the OBD has people who are always working towards change that will improve the field of dentistry for employees and patients. The Governor has appointed people to work on all levels of dentistry. We should respect that the committee members comprised of dentists, hygienists and dental assistants, as subject matter experts, will continue to make the right decisions for dentistry.

The Oregon Dental Assistants Association is opposed to House Bill 2996 and House Bill 3223.

Respectfully,
Bonnie Marshall

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