

To: [Senate Health Care Committee](#)

Measure: [HB 3223A](#)

Position: Support

Wednesday, April 19th, 2023

Good Afternoon Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Todd Beck. I am a general restorative dentist practicing in the Portland-metro area and am writing today in strong support of HB 3223A.

I received my dental degree from Oregon Health & Science University and completed my residency in general practice at St. Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City, where I received advanced training in general restorative dentistry, oral surgery, trauma, anesthesia and urgent care.

My clinic work primarily encompasses preventative dental care, cosmetic dentistry, and restorative dental care (such as root canal therapy, crowns, fillings, etc).

I currently serve as an Assistant Professor at the OHSU School of Dentistry in the Department of Restorative Dentistry where I have taught dental students since 1999.

I am a past president and two term member of the Oregon Board of Dentistry serving from 2013 to 2020.

My time practicing as a restorative dentist coupled with my experience on the Oregon Board of Dentistry and teaching at OHSU has led me to support HB 3223A, a bill which would remove third-part administered written tests for dental assistant certification and replace it with hands-on clinic experience.

During my time on the OBD, we saw very few issues with DA's with regard to patient safety. In Oregon, DA's are not licensed to practice. It is the direct responsibility of the dentist to supervise, train and assign duties within the scope of their training.

Competency is demonstrated by doing; by working under supervision in the operatory. The dentist has been and should continue to be responsible for determining competency of DA's. These written exams by third parties are archaic and serve as a barrier to entrance into the dental profession. We need to do everything we can to increase access to dental care while maintaining above the standard of care services to all Oregonians we serve.

I strongly urge your support of HB 3223A this session and want to thank the committee for allowing me to share my testimony.

Dr. Todd Beck, DMD