

**To:** Senate Health Care Committee  
**Measure:** HB 2996A  
**Position:** Support

**Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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

My name is Andrew Kee. I am a radiation oncologist, and I am submitting written testimony in strong support of HB 2996A.

To share my background, I have a medical degree from the University of Colorado and completed my residency in radiation oncology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester MN. My training requires a comprehensive understanding of radiation biology as part of my board certification in radiation oncology.

I currently serve as the Section Chair & Medical Director of Radiation Oncology at Legacy Health. I lead the Gamma Knife radiosurgery program in addition to being one of two pediatric radiation oncologists in Oregon. My clinical background in pediatric oncology and brain tumors gives me unique insight into x-ray exposure and secondary malignancies.

I have looked through data from all 50 states. I have found no evidence suggesting that the absence of the dental x-ray test for dental assistants correlates with higher secondary malignancies in those states where certification is not required. Following the principles of ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) for radiation exposure is expected in all clinical settings. The key component in doing so, in using x-rays as part of safe, effective, quality care, is the ongoing supervision by the treating dentist. Completing a series of multiple-choice tests does not assure competence and respect for ionizing radiation.

In the eradication of tumors, we deal with doses of ionizing radiation which are often tens of thousands, to millions, of times dental x-ray doses. We do not blindly trust any exam or certification and the false sense of confidence they can produce. We require the demonstration of competence for every new radiation therapist we hire.

I urge the committee's support of HB 2996A this session.

Thank you,

**Dr. Andy Kee, MD**