

## In response to HB 2996/3223 Live Hearing on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

My name is Jill Lomax and I am a dental assisting educator and currently serve on the Oregon Dental Assistant's Association Executive Board.

I have previously submitted my testimony on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in opposition to HB 2996 and 3223. However, there were some misinformation presented at the public hearing on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 that I would like to address for the record:

### In Response to Rep. Pham's Statement:

Ginny Jorgenson, ODAA Vice President, and I met with Rep. Pham on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This meeting came as a request from myself since these bills were created without input from most of the dental community. Rep. Pham reported at Wednesday's hearing that Ginny and I requested to not have the hearing. This is false. We asked Rep. Pham to "press pause" on HB 2996 and 3223 to allow time for stakeholders to address the workforce needs together and create viable solutions. This statement reflects the same theme as stated in OCCA's testimony letter and Chemeketa Community College President, Dr. Howard's, live testimony on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We did not ask to cancel the hearing.

### Radiology Pass Rate

During the hearing, Rep. Pham stated that Oregon's Pass rate for the Radiology Health and Safety (RHS) Exam for 2021 was 68% pass rate - first attempt. Although this percentage includes accredited programs, vocational programs, and on-the-job trained, I can attest that 2020-2021 was a particularly challenging year for all programs, accredited or not, due to COVID-19. This was the first full year instructors taught didactic courses in a complete remote modality instead of face-to-face and administered college exams online. Naturally, online/remote classes were less effective than face-to-face delivery and students had the advantage of taking exams from home with their textbook versus proctored by an instructor in a classroom.

Here at Chemeketa, our pass rate for the RHS exam from 2012 to 2022 is **96.3% - first attempt** (240/249 students). As you can see below, we had a decline in scores for 2021 due to the reasons stated above. The 9 students (out of 249 students over an 11-year span) who were unsuccessful during their first attempt were able to re-sit for the exam and successfully pass on their second attempt.

#### RHS Pass Rate - Chemeketa (First Attempt)

2012- 100% pass rate  
2013- 100% pass rate  
2014- 100% pass rate  
2015- 100% pass rate  
2016- 100% pass rate  
2017- 100% pass rate  
2018- 100% pass rate  
2019- 100% pass rate  
2020- 100% pass rate  
2021- 80% pass rate  
2022- 85% pass rate

Currently 39 states utilize the DANB RHS Exam to ensure that individuals meet a *minimum* national standard for knowledge-based competency in radiology health and safety tasks, critical to the health and safety of patients and dental healthcare personnel.

**Enrollment:**

According to a January 2023 report from the American Dental Association (see link below), dental assisting enrollment across the nation has decreased 45.6% between 2011 to 2021. In contrast, Dental Hygiene enrollment has increased 5.7%. The enrollment of the 9 Oregon Community College Dental Assisting programs reflects this report with 65% capacity. This reflects why the ODAA requested help from the ODA in November 2021 to help with the pipeline. It is not about programs, it is about serving our amazing dental community and meeting workforce needs.

Again, I strongly urge you to vote No on House Bill 2996 and 3223 to allow time for stakeholders to address the workforce needs together and create viable solutions.

Respectfully,

Jill Lomax, EdM, CDA, EFDA-RF

**Sources:**

**Dental Workforce Shortages: Data to Navigate Today’s Labor Market (2022)**

[https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/resources/research/hpi/dental\\_workforce\\_shortages\\_labor\\_market.pdf?rev=e6025d77df184e6c95dc7cefde4adee3&hash=225FCBBCCB67174AAFC760FE2287322D](https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/resources/research/hpi/dental_workforce_shortages_labor_market.pdf?rev=e6025d77df184e6c95dc7cefde4adee3&hash=225FCBBCCB67174AAFC760FE2287322D)

