

Submitter: Kathleen Peterson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB3223

I am a concerned citizen in Oregon, and I am opposed to House Bill 3223. It is my belief that removing the necessity of Dental Assistants to meet national examination standards by passing National Boards in order to receive their National and State Certifications is not in the patients best interest. Dental assistants currently must meet state and national levels of expertise and knowledge in order to take ionizing radiographs, place fillings in teeth, manage sterilization and disinfection processes in the dental office, manage and meet infection control standards and protocols that are in danger of being reduced to the level of the office the assistant is trained in if this HB passes. These are only a few of the certificates dental assistants currently must pass National Board for in order to prove they have achieved the knowledge and skill level to work on patients. But HB is threatening this requirement and expertise and reducing it to the level the assistant will receive by other dental staff in an office. Dentists do not have the time to train assistants on cross contamination, radiographs or many other skills.

This bill lowers the standard for dental assistant certification and undermines the dental assisting profession.

The latest bill amendments do nothing to address the workforce shortage.

I oppose House Bill 3223-A4 and do not support it moving forward. As I feel that the lack of proficient training could be detrimental to dental patients health.

Thank you for your careful consideration of what is best for the health of Oregonians and the dental assisting profession.

Please Oppose HB 3223-A4