

Submitter: Susie Cousar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: HB3223

I am a Health professional in Oregon, and I am opposed to House Bill 3223. This bill lowers the standard for dental assistant certification and undermines the dental assisting profession. Dental assistants were not consulted about this bill, which weakens the dental assisting certifications in Oregon and dismantles the career ladder.

The latest bill amendments do nothing to address the workforce shortage, and they create significant barriers for any provider to offer an accepted written exam.

Dental assistants are critical members of the dental team and the duties we perform require specialized knowledge. Lowering the certification standard minimizes the value of our role in the practice and undercuts the profession, which will lead to higher turnover rates and even greater workforce shortages, while putting patients at risk.

I oppose House Bill 3223 and do not support it moving forward.

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

Sincerely,
Susie Cousar M.S. Public Health Education