

Submitter: Sharon Hansen  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: HB3223

I don't know if you guys have heard of Bill 2966 and 3223 but these are bills that take away dental assistants needing to pass state testing to work in a dental office as an assistant. It makes it to where inexperienced assistants can work inside your mouth! They have a simple training course then bam in a clinic & working. These tests are in place so that you can show you have the knowledge it takes to do very intricate procedures in a very sensitive working place.....your mouth! They claim that they want to do this because there is a dental assistant shortage! But to me dental assistants in Oregon make around \$40 to \$50k per year for full-time work. Not enough to support a family, but not shameful either. I imagine that if certification were eliminated, dental corporations would find a way to pay less and, eventually, that would make it even harder to attract employees. So you're not solving the shortage....actually you're just making it harder for everyone in the industry except dental practice owners pocket books!

Also just a fun fact this bill is proposed by a bunch of dentists! Ones argument was I'm sure I would fail the tests if I were required to take them! Seriously? Please sir if you can't pass a dental assistant test then I would prefer you to not be working in my mouth!

I worked hard to get where I am at in this work force. I tested proved my skill level & earned it so that I could be great at what I do for a living! You shouldn't have dental assistants working in your mouth without having to prove they know what they are doing!