

RE: SB 835

Dear Senator,

I am an Oregon orthodontist and have practices in Aloha and St. Helens. I have been practicing dentistry for 28 years (previously as a General Dentist and currently as an Orthodontist) and urge you to support SB 835.

This bill sets forth the criteria below that must be met in order for a licensed Oregon dentist to advertise that the dentist practices in one or more specialty areas of dentistry:

- (a) Has completed a post-doctoral residence program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, or its successor organization, and approved by the board by rule;
- (b) Is a specialist as defined by the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards, or its successor organization, and adopted by board rule; or
- (c) Has completed an advanced dental education program recognized by the United States Department of Education and approved by the board by rule.

Right now, CODA is the only nationally-recognized accrediting body for dentistry and the related dental fields, receiving its accreditation authority from the acceptance of all stakeholders within the dental community and recognition by the US Department of Education. Additionally, a specialty area recognized by the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards is required to be a distinct and well-defined field which requires unique knowledge and skills beyond those commonly possessed by dental school graduates, and the specialty area must also have a CODA accredited, post-doctoral program. Most importantly, the criteria in this bill all require a dentist to have completed an advanced dental education program recognized by the US Department of Education.

Unfortunately, too many of my dental colleagues are presently advertising their "credentials" and their "specialty training" that they have received by taking a weekend course. A lot of the claims made in their advertising use phrases such as "specialist in..." and "the Board of Oral...", etc. The lay public does not understand the difference between these false and misleading claims (unrecognized specialties and Boards) versus the additional 3 years training and Board Certification that someone such as myself has had to go through to ACTUALLY become a truly "recognized specialist."

I am asking you to support the proposed S.B. 835, as it best protects patients from dental providers with less education and training being able to advertise on the same level or in the same manner as those dentists who have graduated from multi-year, CODA accredited programs that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to call me at my office number below, my cell phone (503-703-0321), or my orthodontic association- the American Association of Orthodontists (via Gianna Hartwig, who is available at 314-292- 6527).

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel S. Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and 'P'.

Daniel S. Phillips, DMD, PC

Specialist in Orthodontics

Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

18325 SW Alexander Street

Aloha, Oregon 97003