

Submitter: Kathryn Torvik

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2996

I work with dental students at an Oregon community college. I'm concerned about this bill. As someone who knows the rigorous program that dental assisting and dental hygiene students go through, the thought of having assistants who are not adequately trained and certified is alarming. As a patient, I want the person working in my mouth and on my teeth to be well educated and proficient at performing the tasks. That's why we have certification. I do not want to be put at risk because someone is not skilled and has not passed an exam for radiological proficiency. X-rays are a regular and routine part of dental exams. Shortages in the field are NO reason to cut back on skill levels and educational certification. That is the wrong approach. It's better to address salary inequities that have cut down on the number of students pursuing this field. Watering down the certifications and qualifications is not the answer! We can't put patient health and well-being at risk. Please vote no on this bill.