

Submitter: Shirley Ayers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3223

I strongly urge you to vote "NO" on HB 3223 to protect the people of Oregon!

As a citizen of Oregon, I depend on my legislature to do what it can to protect me from potential harm. This bill allows untrained dental assistants to perform dental services on patients without proving they can do so safely.

American Dental Association (ADA) shows a visible correlation between oral health and general health. Medical science has started to include screening for diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disorders in routine dental care.

As a senior citizen I know that I am part of an age group that is more likely to be affected by these serious health concerns. My experience has shown that the dental assistant is the first line of defense in personal contact and holistic assessment of health problems I might be facing.

In the past, Oregon has been a place where the people, professionals and legislative bodies have worked in an exemplary manner to provide for the needs of people and the environment. Most states require DANB certifications and exams by law, including the District of Columbia and federal government organizations such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Air Force.

(www.medicaltechnologyschools.com/dental-assistant/how-to-become-a-certified-dental-assistant) This bill would move Oregon out of a body of states and agencies that value certification.

By removing the testing requirements, the passing of HB 3223 does not ensure that a care giver has the skills and/or knowledge to provide Oregon citizen's essential care. Please vote "NO" on HB 3223 to protect the people of Oregon!