



American Society of Radiologic Technologists

February 9, 2023

**House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care Oregon State Legislature RE:
House Bill 2996**

Dear Chairman Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, and Vice-Chair Nelson:

American Society of Radiologic Technologist is the premier medical imaging and radiation therapy professional association, representing nearly 157,000 medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals nationwide, including 1,780 in Oregon. As an organization whose mission is to enhance the quality and safety of patient care, we express concern and opposition for House Bill 2996 which would prohibit the Oregon Board of Dentistry from requiring certification for dental assistants to pass written examination for radiological proficiency. The proposed bill, as written, would impact countless Oregonians.

Requiring certification is a way to ensure competency for personnel operating equipment which is essential when considering they are utilizing ionizing radiation. Although radiation levels utilized in dental offices may be low compared to most diagnostic imaging procedures, the level of repeat rates and accumulated dose is directly related to the operator's skill and knowledge. X-rays can't be felt, seen or heard which can be deceiving and leave patients vulnerable to over exposure of radiation. Patients are unaware if an operator, or dental assistant, is not competent. The majority of patients don't know the minimum number of images needed or how much radiation should be used for each of the images. They trust in the operating personnel to have a thorough understanding of the equipment and application of radiation. They trust in the legislators to ensure operators meet minimum safety standards while using radiation through certification. Although training levels can vary, having a certification exam ensures at least the minimum standards have been met. Oregonians rely on legislators to advocate and provide a safe environment in various healthcare settings and dental offices should be no exception.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Meredith Check'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Meredith Check, MPP
Manager, Government Relations & Public Policy
American Society of Radiologic Technologists