

Submitter: Tamara Loosli

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3223

OPPOSE House Bill 3223

I am writing to ask you to oppose House Bill 3223.

As a dental assistant for over 35 years, and an educator for the past 24 years, I have witnessed the negative effects of unqualified, under-trained dental assistants in the dental office. The modern dental assistant must be thoroughly trained in infection control, radiation safety, and procedural safety. The untrained, unskilled dental assistant poses a serious threat to the health and well-being of patients, staff and the community. Proper training includes testing for knowledge and competence. I have witnessed firsthand the growth of dental assistants as they learn, practice, and prove their competency by studying and passing national exams.

Prohibiting the Oregon Board of Dentistry from requiring exams for certification is a huge mistake. This will not help to ease the shortage of dental assistants in the state as has been proven in many other states with lesser requirements than Oregon. The shortage is nationwide. What we need is better pay, more benefits and increased skill recognition for qualified, certified dental assistants.

Please protect the integrity of the dental assisting profession by opposing House Bill 3223.

Please protect the health and safety of the citizens of Oregon by opposing House Bill 3223.

Respectfully,

Tamara Loosli CDA, B.S.