

Submitter: H R

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3223

As a dental professional for more than two decades, I vehemently oppose this bill. In a time that our education seems to be under attack and the profession is struggling to find quality employees, I stand firm in my belief that Dental Assistants must take a proficiency exam for Expanded Functions. I have been a dental assistant, an instructor, mentor, trainer, and now a hygienist with a master's degree. There is pride that comes from the investment and accomplishment of reaching one's goals and passing exams. This pride and accomplishment helps to assure high-caliber professionals. This ruling will NOT eliminate the shortage of dental assistants, but rather will likely further harm the industry, as it would likely lead to reduced quality, pay, and respect for the position, further increasing the shortage. The current standards were written to keep patients and professionals safe. Why would we reduce these standards?