

Submitter: Elisa Williams Schofield

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2996

Having practiced in the dental profession for over 40 years, I have seen the value of an accredited education program for dental assistants, that includes dental radiology. I have practiced as a dental assistant , dental hygienist , and also taught in both dental assisting and dental hygiene programs. Radiographs are a vital piece of a comprehensive oral health assessment and one of the most frequently asked about by patients regarding their need and safety. Informed patients are a result of knowledge of findings during an exam completed by the dental team. All dental health care providers should be able to provide this knowledge to their patients, with the goal being the patient can make an informed choice for their dental treatment. Protecting the patients ability to get the highest standards of care and the practitioners from be accused of delivering less than that, is empowered by quality education , not a just get by attitude. Total body wellness does not begin below the chin and mental and dental health and care are the tools that keep the wheelhouse of human health functioning to their optimum potential in many ways.

Regarding cost of taking the radiology course and exam, it is an affordable course offered online and approved by OBD and offered by the DALE Foundation. The exam has been updated by DANB, no longer including conventional radiology, and DANB reports 71% pass in Oregon on first attempt and 82% on second attempt. (40% is required to pass).

As an Oregon licensed dental health care provider, I am lobbying to keep our profession held to the highest of standards in the best interest of and voice for the public...our patients.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Williams Schofield BS RDH