

Submitter: Lynn Murray
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB3223

HB 3223 will do the opposite of what the proposers of this bill say it will do. Rather than increase the number of assistants in the dental field, it will make dental assisting a dead-end career with a glass ceiling, thereby reducing the interest in the profession, and in remaining in the profession. There will be two results if this bill passes. One is that patients can no longer trust that the person performing the skill, and some of these skills are truly risky, knows what they are doing. The assistant has not demonstrated their ability to perform the skill effectively or safely. The patient is their dexter, their guinea pig to put it in stronger terms. They learn on their patients. This is not safe or what is best for patients. Secondly, removing certifications removes the ladder to higher wages and a more fulfilling career for those who want to advance in their careers. At this time it is even more important that people can attain family wage positions. Removing the ladder for those who do want to advance will cause them to leave the field and find one that allows for advancement. To address the shortage of dental assistants we need to make dental assisting a career that people want to enter, and retain those that are in the field. HB 3223 will severely reduce the already critical shortage of dental assistants by lowering the wage scale! This is a misguided bill. Please consider the ramifications for assistants and patients and vote NO on HB 3223.