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April 18, 2023

Dear Oregon Lawmakers:

I am an administrator and educator at Central Oregon Community College in Bend, and I urge you to vote no on HB 2996 and HB 3223. These two bills will result in conditions that

- 1. Put patient health and safety at risk
- 2. Lower the quality of patient care
- 3. Undermine and devalue the dental assisting profession
- 4. Will worsen the shortage of qualified providers

Dental assistants are critical members of the dental teams and the duties they perform require specialized knowledge. Lowering the certification standard minimizes the value of their role in the practice and undercuts the profession, which will lead to even more workforce issues.

Sincerely yours,

Annemarie I. Hand

Annemarie E. Hamlin Vice President of Academic Affairs