

Submitter: Terrence Clark  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: HB2996

I'm convinced there are good intentions behind the drafting of these bills, but they will have the polar opposite effect as they are now written. Removing testing, certification, and an established standard of care will put the patients at increased risk of harm, it reduces the perceived value of the profession, and it will exacerbate the very problems it's attempting to tackle.

However, getting some funding to enhance the recruitment of new dental assistant applicants, as well as improving job satisfaction and retention, would be welcomed! Perhaps they could rewrite the bills to accomplish this, and eliminate any changes to the testing and certification of our highly valued dental assistants.

I have four dental assistants in my office and they were all very opposed to the removal of a standardized test and elimination of credentials. One said she would consider leaving the career if her current credentials became obsolete and meaningless, which is exactly what these bills will do.

Honestly ask yourself, do you want to go to a professional dental office, pay top drawer fees, and have a dental assistant practice taking X-rays on you? Or your loved ones? If you wanted that experience you would go to the dental school! Public safety has to be a top priority for our legislators and healthcare professionals.

We can't be cutting the quality of our care or watering down the essential professional requirements every time there are ebbs and flows in our economy and workforce. We can do better and be better than that.