

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care.

My name is Mary Harrison and I am writing in opposition of House Bills 2996 and 3223.

I have been a dental assistant for more than 55 years, graduating from Salem Tech in Salem in 1964.

I have served on several Oregon Board of Dentistry Committees including the Rules committee at the present time. I have been involved through the years working with the OBD establishing the Expanded Functions and other parts of the Division 42 dealing with the dental assistant rules. The team, with all members of dentistry working through the years on items that have been changed, deleted, added, and followed. The constant updating has made it possible to stay current with what is needed for patient care, safety, and functions asked for by the dentists in Oregon.

At this time, all Expanded Functions for assistants are dependent on having passed the Radiation Health and Safety Exam, with this, the door is open to all other functions allowed for assistants.

It is hard to understand why the House Bills were presented to legislature when the system has worked through the years. (Without gathering the team to the table to discuss any possible solutions)

Assistants have been passing the exams for years and have been able to find ways to study or attend courses to attain the passing results of exams and receive the certificates.

In my mind this has nothing to do with the shortage of people wanting to become a dental assistant.

I encourage you to oppose these House Bills 2996 and 3223

I am available if you have any questions.

Regards,

Mary Harrison CDA, Emeritus, EFDA, EFODA, FADAA