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On Behalf Of:
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De-regulating criteria which is in place to protect and provide quality dental care to Oregonians, without systems in place to help prevent errors, is an enormous mistake.

Removing the requirements for passing a written exam is a band aid on a problem not a solution. Our problem is the lack of skilled staff. A much better solution would be to develop training guidelines to help educate the individuals so they can pass the test set by a governing body. By removing the test as an indicator to an individual's knowledge and skill, is to rely on an assumption that the worker knows what they are doing. Assumptions are not concrete and are subjective.

It is imperative to develop guidelines and alternative pathways prior to removing the existing rules. Currently, Oregon does not require assistants to be certified through DANB but they use DANB's standardized testing for radiology licensing and for EFDA duties. So, we already have in place several options for individuals to work in the dental field.

The lack of workforce in Oregon is a broad problem. This is not just a Dental issue. However, removing guidelines to regulate the skill levels is not going to help increase numbers in the workforce. Increasing the opportunity for quality education and incentivizing education can and will increase our Oregon work force.