

To: [Senate Health Care Committee](#)

Measure: [HB 3223A](#)

Position: Support

Friday, April 28th, 2023

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Amy Fine, I am a general dentist and I'm writing today as a private citizen to express my strong support of HB 3223A.

While I serve in the role of Chief Dental Officer for La Clinica, a community health clinic in Medford, Oregon, as a board member of the Oregon Primary Care Association, and an examiner for a national dental competency testing agency, my comments are not necessarily the official view for any of these organizations.

To share a bit about my background first, I earned a dental degree from Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), was formerly a partner of Dental Quality Consulting, an affiliate faculty instructor in OHSU's School of Dentistry, and past president of the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

The area of dental assistant certification in Oregon, MUST change, to meet the current health equity & workforce needs. The current multiple choice exams do not adequately prepare an assistant nor does it make them a safer provider. Having expensive tests with a high failure rate doesn't provide an extra layer of value or safety to the profession; it creates a workforce entry barrier leading to access to care issues for the most vulnerable populations, especially BIPOC communities.

Removing these exams does not create any public safety concerns.

With HB 3223A, there will still be certification requirements through OBD. Dentists training chair side is already an alternative pathway. We currently attest assistants are competent at radiologic proficiency and the many other tasks they do in the clinic. HB 3223A would bring us closer to the vision of health equity, particularly for those seeking to enter the dental profession as dental assistants.

I strongly urge the committee's support of HB 3223A this session, thank you.

Dr. Amy Fine, DMD