

11 May 2023

Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: House Bill 3223

Dear Chair Senator Patterson, Vice-Chair Senator Hayden, and members of the Committee:

Written testimony submitted for the February 13th public hearing shows a solid majority of voters are not in favor of this bill, e.g., 93 writers opposed, including Oregon Dental Assistants Association v. only 2 in support – one of which was the sponsor of the bill. Just how, during the March 7th work session the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care construed those numbers into a unanimous vote to ‘pass’ the bill along is a mystery, as well as a bit unsettling.

Written testimony submitted for the March 19th public hearing also shows a concrete majority of voters not in favor of the bill. This round, 24 letters are opposed to passage v. 3 in support.

Written testimony submitted for the May 10th public hearing shows 17 writers opposed v. 2 letter is support.

Written testimony submitted for the March 26th public hearing shows 3 opposed v. 2 in support. Are people perhaps getting tired of repeating themselves? Is anyone listening?

There should be no doubt whatsoever about the preference of Oregon voters. The testimony already submitted should make it perfectly clear that voters are not in favor of doing away with the requirement that Dental Assistant candidates take – and pass – a written examination before earning certification.

I'd like to believe our elected members of the legislature reflect – and respond – to the will of the people they represent and I find their disregard of their constituents wishes more than a little puzzling.

Not only do I urge the Committee to table this bill I urge the Committee to listen to the voice of the citizenry.

Sincerely,



Richard Wisner