

Submitter: Kym Peterson
On Behalf Of: Dental Assistants of Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: HB3223

Greetings Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

For the record, my name is (insert name). (History in dental field and accreditations)

House Bill 3223, which you are considering today, is not good for the dental profession, or for patients. For the good of patients and dental assistants, we need three things:

We need Proof of Competence. Without an objective, standardized exam for dental assistants, risk to patients will be increased. Accreditation proves that we have the essential skills and knowledge to do the job. The standard should remain high. This bill will ultimately undermine quality of care for patients.

We need Respect. I take great pride in my profession and my ability to serve patients. The credentialing process builds confidence and enhances job satisfaction. Undermining this process and watering down the requirements will discourage high-quality dental assistant applicants.

We need Support, and a better policy for Oregon dental assistants than this bill. It will not improve the workforce shortage, it will not encourage dentists to invest in their dental assistants, and it will not make patients safer.

Dental assistants were not asked for their thoughts on these proposals at the beginning of the process, and the language in House Bill 3223 before you today reflects a misunderstanding of the importance of accreditation. This bill will affect our profession, the safety of patients and providers, and the quality of patient care. I urge you to vote no on HB 3223.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.