

Representative Hai Pham, DMD
House District 36



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18th, 2023

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

My name is Hai Pham. I am the State Representative for House District 36 which covers south Hillsboro, west Beaverton and parts of unincorporated Washington County.

I am writing to share the comments I made on the record yesterday during the work session of [HB 3223A](#) and provide some legislative intent for the adopted [-A14](#) amendment.

First, I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to Chair Patterson, Representative Javadi, Representative Cramer, Senator Girod, Senator Hayden and all the stakeholders who have been involved in providing feedback on this bill. I'm glad we were able to come to a consensus that moves the ball forward on addressing our dental assistant shortage.

To clarify some key points in the -A14 amendment and provide some more guidance to the Oregon Board of Dentistry as they implement this bill:

- In Section 2 subsection b, the bill specifically requires that any written examination **shall be** offered in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Where this section requires any written exams to be offered in plain language, I want to note that **“plain language” includes appropriate allowances for medical terms or art.**
- In Section 2 subsection 2 where the bill outlines that the Board may not require the applicant to complete more than one written examination for certification as that type of dental assistant, the intent here is that an applicant applying for one specific type of dental assistant certificate only has to complete one exam. If the applicant applies for another expanded function certificate, then they will have to review those requirements and complete another written exam for certification if necessary. **So one written exam per type of dental assistant certificate.**
- Finally, when thinking about the makeup of the advisory committee, the majority of which will be those with experience as a dental assistant, it would be valuable to draw from the varied experiences of dental assistants in the field. So, I would urge the Board to appoint former (or current) dental assistants with experience in **different educational/clinical/hospital settings and with experiences in various modalities** to share the breadth of experiences in the field of dental assisting.

Thank you once again to the stakeholders for the many months of collaboration. I hope that we can continue to work together to encourage individuals to join the dental assistant profession and get patients across the state the oral healthcare they so deeply need.

Sincerely,

Representative Hai Pham, DMD