

Texas Dental Assisting Educators Association

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Sunset Advisory Commission

P.O. Box 13066

Austin, TX 78711

Dear Sunset Advisory Commission,

The Dental Assisting Educators of Texas would like to voice opposition to "Issue 2" of the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report.

We strongly disagree with the Commission's recommendation to "discontinue the board's dental assistant certificate programs". Dental Assistants in the State of Texas are very much involved in direct patient care, and must be held accountable for the safety and well-being of the citizens of Texas.

Dental Assistants regularly perform many important duties that could lead to serious patient harm. The majority of dental assistant tasks are not monitored or supervised, but left to a responsible person to carry out. A qualified, properly trained and regulated dental assistant has passed multiple exams and competencies demonstrating his/her abilities and is therefore trusted to carry out the job responsibilities. Patients could be in serious danger if there is a lack of proper Infection Control and Hazardous Materials training, knowledge of proper radiation safety protocols, and of course knowledge of the Legal duties of a dental assistant in the State of Texas.

As mentioned in the report, there is a "low volume of complaints and regulatory activity concerning dental assistants' patient care". This low volume of complaints is because of the current requirements of regulation and education for dental assistants. If the recommendation to "discontinue the board's dental assistant certificate programs" is enacted, the volume of complaints will increase and the citizens of Texas will be the ones made to suffer and pay the price.

Warm regards,

Texas Dental Assisting Educators Association