

April 22, 2016

Allen Allensworth

P.O. Box 13066

Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Allensworth,

I am writing in response to the Commission's report on the State Board of Dental Examiners (SBDE). I have been a dental assistant (DA) for 20 years and I am a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA). I also have been a dental assistant instructor for seven of those years as a Registered Dental Assistant. I am not in favor of abolishing Registration or Certifications for dental assistants.

Education in Infection Control is crucial to protect patients, the doctors and staff and myself. In an educational setting no infection control is a cause of cross contamination for all involved and without it would be very harmful in the field. Radiology is not intended to be exposed to any individuals with the lack of education in the risk of overexposure by a dental assistant to others or self. It is necessary for DA's to be knowledgeable of the state laws and SBDE (Board) rules to the overall protection of the offices in dentistry.

Certifications are very important to the profession of dentistry, any DA who has not been certified in nitrous monitoring would not be mentally alert to know the signs and symptoms in a patient in an emergency. The liabilities are far too great to do away with the registrations or certifications in any level. The self proficiencies of a DA with certificates in coronal polishing and pit & fissure sealants are key elements in training to a higher standard to more than minimal education of my chosen profession.

Respectfully,

Dental Assistant Instructor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francisco', followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that extends to the right.

Francisco Javier Torres, RDA