

May 11, 2024

Chairman Cutrona
Vice Chair Gross
Ranking Member Somani
Members of the House Health Provider Services Committee

Re: **SB 40 Opposition**

Dear Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani and all members of the House Health Provider Services Committee:

My name is Mary Lou Gerosky RDH BS MEd and I have been privileged to practice Dental Hygiene in the great state of Ohio since 1981. I am writing in **OPPOSITION TO SB40**.

I have provided clinical care to patients in our state for twenty years, then taught Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting students at Cuyahoga Community College from 1991-2020 as an adjunct clinical instructor and as Program Director 1992-2020. During that time, I was a Dental Hygiene consultant to the Commission on Dental Accreditation, participating in accreditation site visits throughout the country and a consultant to the NorthEast Regional Board of Dental Examiners, now known as The Commission on Dental Competency Assessments. I have been a member of the Ohio Dental Hygienist Association, American Dental Hygienist Association, the American Dental Educators Association, and the Joint Commission on Dental Board Examinations.

I oppose SB 40 because it would:

- Dilute our state's current public health protections.
- Permit out-of-state dentist and dental hygienist to practice in Ohio without being subject to the authority of the Ohio Dental Board or Ohio's laws and requirements. This is especially alarming.
- Permit dentists and dental hygienists licensed by states with less rigorous license requirements to practice in Ohio. Most critically, Sb 40 eliminates the requirement of a hand-skills examination for dentists and dental hygienists.
- Permit dentists and dental hygienists licensed in other states and who were convicted of some felonies to practice in Ohio.
- Permit a third-party commission--not accountable to the Ohio Legislature--to impose regulations contrary to current Ohio law.
- Allow the commission to assess potentially unlimited fees on the Ohio government.

SB40 as it is currently written is NOT good for the citizens of Ohio. I have observed firsthand Dental Hygiene students who have demonstrated good intellectual ability yet could not demonstrate the psycho-motor skills to competently grasp a bladed instrument used during the primary skill of an RDH-scaling teeth, or many of the other components of care requiring hand coordination in a small, dark area of a human's anatomy-the mouth. I write to you as a concerned professional, to oppose SB40 as written. I firmly believe that Dental Hygiene graduates wishing to practice Dental Hygiene in Ohio must be required to pass a clinical assessment by a third party, such as CDCA/WREB/CITA, experienced in clinical assessment administration, to be licensed to protect the citizens of Ohio. As a Dental Hygiene program director, I welcomed third party assessment/validation of our student's clinical competence.

I strongly believe that SB 40, as written, will compromise public protection in our state. I ask that you please take a stand to preserve our current standards for the profession of dentistry and oppose SB 40

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Gerosky

Mary Lou Gerosky M Ed RDH BSDH CDA