

**David J. Owsiany
Executive Director – Ohio Dental Association
Testimony on Senate Bill 166
House Economic and Workforce Development Committee
Proponent Testimony**

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chair Powell, Ranking Member Upchurch, and distinguished members of the House Economic and Workforce Development committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 166 today. My name is David Owsiany, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Dental Association. As you may know, the ODA is the professional association of dentists in Ohio. We represent 70% of Ohio's practicing dentists with more than 5,000 member dentists across the state.

My comments are pointed directly to the amendment to this bill for ORC section 4715- the Dental Practice Act. The Ohio Dental Association did not have reason to weigh in on SB 166 when it was introduced however, now that the bill contains a dental component we would like to add proponent testimony. The dental portion of this bill, put in by amendment in this committee, will allow dental assistants another testing option to receive certification. During the pandemic we have seen the importance of having testing options for certification and the problems that can arise with limited options. Having said that, it is also important to ensure that the standards set for certified dental assistants in the dental practice act are upheld by any new testing group. Senate Bill 166 will allow for dental assistants to have another testing option when obtaining their certification and maintain the standard set in the dental practice act. This will also assist in any current difficulty that assistants are having trying to find testing for certification.

Overall, the dental portion of this bill is very succinct and pointed. As the bill is currently written the ODA is in full support of the new opportunity for certification for dental assistants. Thank you for your time today and I would be happy to answer any questions.