

3/2/2022

Dear Health Occupational Committee

My name is Janelle Merritt, I am a registered DANB CDA, a Community Dental Health Care Worker, In the State of Maryland I am Licensed: as a Qualified Dental Assistant and in Dental Radiology. I have 15 years chairside dental assisting experience and experience as a dental assisting instructor at Frederick Community College teaching the expanded functions dental assisting course.

15 years ago, as a dental assistant in training I was educated from a CODA accredited course and tested completing the DANB CDA exam (the highest standard for dental assistants to be national certified) However being licensed in the state of Maryland I was told by my instructor to be prepared to “put your blinder on” half the duties you are trained and test on to pass the DANB sadly you cannot perform those same duties in the state of Maryland. I find myself today as an instructor having to explain this same situation to my student.

I am advocating on behalf of dental assistants and instructors that the proper education and training is being performed and has been for well over 15 years within the dental assisting curriculum and testing. The dental assisting workforce is becoming limited because with the same education and training they are choosing employment in nearby states where expanded duties are recognized. By limiting the dental assistant's duties, we are also limiting Maryland patients to access to dental care.

I am asking for a favorable report for HB0968

Thank you , Janelle Merritt