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Subject: Public Comment for EAIC

Public Comments for Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Date: 17th January 2024 14:46

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Subject:
Amendment of LAP Permit

Comment:

Why does a dental Hygienist choose to go into the field of hygiene? For some, it may be for the wages. For others, it may be the flexible schedule. But for ALL of us, it is because we have the compassion and desire to help others, especially those who can't help themselves. It is a career of passion. In my 22 years of practicing, I have never met another hygienist who hasn't gotten teary-eyed at the stories of the children whose oral health could've been saved. Or who hasn't walked away from a continuing education class absolutely on fire and wanting to improve oral health in a way that it changes the world. We want to make a difference in people's lives. We aren't wanting to take away duties from dentists or trying to advance our careers so we can rise above others, so to speak. We just want to help people. Therefore, I am in full support of the amendment to the verbiage of the LAP Permit for Dental Hygienists in the state of Montana. The LAP Permit was created to allow us hygienists to do just what we were hoping for, to provide care to underserved populations all across our great state. However, the current verbiage, as stated in 24.138.509 (5) (a-e), describes our practice as being permitted only in certain geographic locations of Montana. It would be amazing if the law verbiage was broadened so we could be permitted, as proposed, to reach as many people as possible, from Lincoln County to Carter County and everywhere between. Dental Hygienists aren't just the fixers, we are the educators who teach people how to care for themselves and their oral health. Thank you for supporting us in our efforts to help all Montanans, not just certain chosen ones, to live healthier lives by approving the Amendment to the Dental Hygiene LAP Permit. Sincerely, Jennifer L. Davis, RDH, BS, LAP

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