

April 2, 2024

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
2107 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Dental Association (MDA), I express our organization's support for the Senate Health and Human Services Licensing Omnibus, SF4570 as amended. In particular, the MDA appreciates the inclusion of Article 4, Sections 1 and 2, as it pertains to specialty dentist licensure and dental assistant licensure by credentials.

Specialty Dentist Licensure Modifications

Article 4, Section 1, removes paragraph (e) from Minnesota Statute 150A.06, subdivision 1c., which states that a specialty dentist holding a general dental license is limited to practicing in their designated specialty area if they announced a limitation of practice. Removing this restriction would allow a specialty dentist to provide general dentist services outside their specialty area, providing the ability for the dentist to treat a greater number of patients and increasing access to care.

Dental Assistant Licensure by Credentials

Article 4, Section 2, addresses the growing workforce shortage of dental assistants. Current law allows for out of state dental assistants to apply for licensure based on their credentials in lieu of completing a board-approved dental assisting program if the applicant meets certain criteria. One criterion is that the applicant must have graduated from a dental assisting program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and be certified by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB).

This provision allows dental assistants to apply for licensure by credentials regardless of whether they graduated from a CODA accredited program, so long as they are certified by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB). Applicants of CODA accredited programs who are not certified by DANB would also be eligible to apply for licensure. Applicants would still be required to demonstrate that the non-CODA program is comparable to instate CODA programs and meets all other Board of Dentistry requirements.

Article 4, Section 2, simply expands the applicant pool to provide Minnesota with more candidates that may be qualified for licensure. It also more clearly articulates the Board of



Dentistry's authority to recognize out of state non-CODA accredited dental assisting programs for those seeking licensure by credentials.

The MDA appreciates the inclusion of both provisions in SF4570, as amended, and asks for your support. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Murphy", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dan Murphy, MPP
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About the Minnesota Dental Association

The Minnesota Dental Association is the voice of dentistry in Minnesota, representing practicing dentists. It is committed to the highest standards of oral health and access to care for all Minnesotans. Learn more at: www.mndental.org.