



March 28, 2025

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, a member of the "Treat Yourself First" provider coalition, I urge your support for SF831.

A 2021 survey by the American Dental Association revealed that the percentage of dentists diagnosed with anxiety tripled compared to 2003. Many reported feeling less in control of their work environment, experiencing heightened stress, and scoring high on a depression scale. Burnout and stress-related conditions are increasingly affecting dental professionals, sometimes to the point of impairing their ability to practice safely and effectively.

Dentists often work in small or solo practices with limited access to peer support and mental health resources. The profession's physical demands—long hours in static positions, precision-driven work, and the emotional toll of treating anxious patients—exacerbate stress and fatigue. Without proper mental health support, these challenges can lead to burnout, early retirement, reduced patient access to care, and diminished quality of service.

Mentally and physically healthy dentists can provide compassionate, high-quality care for their patients.

Thank you for considering SF831 and please support its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Murphy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Murphy, MPP
Director of Government Affairs
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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.