



August 29, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1453 (Ashby) 2024 Dental Board of California Sunset Review –
SIGNATURE REQUEST**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California Dental Association, representing 27,000 member-dentists throughout the state, writes in support of SB 1453 (Ashby), which would extend the Dental Board of California's (board) sunset.

CDA supports the continued ability of the board to protect the health and safety of consumers and the continued regulation of licensees to ensure Californians receive safe dental care and provides the following comments on policy provisions included in SB 1453.

Workforce Development and Job Creation

CDA is aligned with the goals of the board's Access to Care Committee to increase pathways to licensure and accessibility of examinations. CDA strongly supports the language in SB 1453 to establish a new dental assisting preceptorship pathway that allows for a more flexible work experience alternative to dental assisting programs for individuals unable to enroll in a full-time educational program. This language is the result of two years of negotiation between dental stakeholders in order to expand opportunities in the dental workforce.

Additionally, CDA is supportive of removing work experience requirements for individuals seeking an orthodontic assistant permit, understanding that the supervising dentist is best equipped to determine when their dental assistants are ready to begin coursework (as it's usually provided by the dentist), or stand for the permit examination. Integrating these changes in the sunset bill will get more dental assistants trained faster, equipping dental offices to see additional patients while balancing ongoing workforce issues persistent in all healthcare fields.

Pediatric Dental Anesthesia

CDA also appreciates the dental board's willingness to address unintended consequences and necessary clean-up for SB 501 (Glazer, 2018), legislation focused on pediatric dental anesthesia. CDA supports the board's legislative proposals included in this bill to address implementation issues identified by board staff, including clean-up to enable pediatric dentists

to use their pediatric residencies as qualifying education to apply for adult minimal sedation permits, allowing them to provide sedation to adolescent patients aged 13 and up.

Mental Health Continuing Education

Mental health, wellness and burnout are issues impacting all health care providers. CDA supports the provision of this bill that allows for licensees to count specified C.E. coursework to help to further destigmatize these issues and better equip the dental team with the tools they need to continue to provide the highest level of care to patients.

Licensure by Credential Portability for Nonclinical Dentistry

CDA agrees with the board that both the profession and patients would benefit from a streamlined process for out-of-state dentists to get licensed in California. Approximately 14% of all dentists nationally moved across state lines between 2019-2022, with 1.3% of transplants moving into California. Allowing out-of-state licensed dentists working in nonclinical public dental health spaces to be eligible for licensure creates licensure portability parity for the profession and will help to ensure all dental specialties can move freely to California.

CDA is committed to strengthening and diversifying the dental workforce and improving oral health equity in alignment with the goals and issues in the dental board's 2024 sunset review.

CDA respectfully requests your signature on the bill when it is before you.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at mary.mccune@cda.org if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary McCune". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mary McCune
Policy Director

Cc: Sam Miller, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Tracy A. Montez, Ph.D., Executive Officer, Dental Board of California
Senator Angelique Ashby