

YOUR ADVOCATE

on State Board of Dentistry Issues

Thanks to your membership, PDA is able to monitor and influence State Board of Dentistry (SBOD) regulations as they are written and moving through the regulatory process.

PDA advocates on dentists' behalf on all SBOD issues, including:

- Advocating for policy that defines as the practice of dentistry the administration of botox and dermal fillings by properly trained dentists.
- Enacting regulations that would prohibit, with some exceptions, non-dental professionals from owning dental practices.
- Monitoring proposals for alternative workforce models that conflict with ADA & PDA policy in favor of the dental team model.
- Prohibiting teeth whitening businesses operated by non-dental professionals.
- Enacting scope of practice changes that put patient safety first.
- Ensuring that licensees' disciplinary charges are applied judiciously.
- Providing uniform standards & curriculum so graduates of EFDA programs acquire the same skill sets.
- Advocating for reasonable regulations for licensees who have permits to administer anesthesia, sedation and nitrous oxide.
- Guaranteeing that regulations allow for dentists only to read and interpret radiographs so that patients receive an appropriate diagnosis and treatment plan.
- Working with the board in implementing the ADA's community dental health coordinator program in Pennsylvania communities.
- Advocating for reasonable enforcement of professional misconduct regulations.
- Thwarting attempts by other groups to further regulate continuing education requirements in order to dictate the types of courses dentists must take.
- Promoting a policy opposing any attempt by government to make licensure contingent on dentists treating a specific percentage of patients on Medical Assistance, putting dentists at potential risk of being unable to operate their businesses.
- Monitoring and providing comments on any attempt to raise licensure and permit fees.

It is the Pennsylvania SBOD, not PDA, that licenses all dentists and hygienists and certifies all expanded function dental assistants in Pennsylvania. The SBOD also issues the permits to allow dentists to administer general anesthesia and deep sedation (unrestricted permit), conscious sedation (permit I) and nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia (permit II).

The SBOD is a separate and distinct entity within the Department of State's Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA), authorized by the state legislature to regulate the dental community. It is comprised of seven dentists, one hygienist, two public members, an attorney from the Attorney General's Office and the BPOA Commissioner, who oversees all 27 licensing boards in Pennsylvania.

The SBOD is responsible for issuing licenses and certificates; issuing anesthesia permits; promulgating regulations pertaining to scope of practice, misconduct, advertising, continuing education, etc.; and, levying fines and penalties when licensees commit infractions.

