



Legislative Victories

Through the years, PDA has used dentists' collective voice in the legislative arena to accomplish great things:

PASSED legislation limiting the time frame in which insurers may retroactively review and deny dental claims to 24 months.

PASSED legislation prohibiting insurers from capping fees for dental services which are not covered in a patient's plan.

PASSED legislation requiring insurers to cover the cost of general anesthesia when needed to treat patients of any age with special needs or children seven years of age or younger.

PASSED legislation allowing out-of-state dentists to apply for temporary licenses so that they may volunteer at charitable events or assist during states of emergency.

PASSED legislation that expands the scope of practice for expanded function dental assistants to include some hygiene functions performed under dentists' direct supervision.

AMENDED legislation requiring dentists to carry malpractice insurance by including an exemption for dentists with volunteer licenses and those who practice in community based settings.

AMENDED legislation to safeguard patients and require additional training and education for public health dental hygiene practitioners practicing independently in public settings.

REINSTATED funding in the state budget for Dental Lifeline Network's Donated Dental Services program.

SECURED additional funding in the state's health care practitioner loan forgiveness program for dentists who agree to practice in shortage areas in exchange for student loan forgiveness.

DEFEATED legislation that would have required dentists to submit proof of having paid taxes before renewing their dental license, threatening their livelihood if the state made mistakes processing this information.

DEFEATED legislation allowing municipalities to remove fluoride from water supplies without prior notification to the public or Department of Environmental Protection.

REMOVED provisions in a city ordinance that required dentists to install amalgam separators and display a poster in their offices needlessly alarming patients about the dangers of "mercury amalgam."

TRANSFORMED the dental profession by convincing the legislature to legitimize the practice of expanded function dental assistants, increasing dental office productivity.

STOPPED the legislature from passing a bill prohibiting dentists from administering general anesthesia and deep sedation in their offices.

To learn more about current legislative efforts visit the Government Relations page at www.padental.org/gr.