

CURRENT LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

2015-2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- **SB1193/HB2000 AN ACT RELATIVE TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

The proposed legislation would allow dental hygienists, who have obtained a special permit, to administer nitrous oxide analgesia to patients under the supervision of a dentist. The educational requirements to obtain certification to administer nitrous oxide will be approved by BORID.

This bill currently sits in _____

- **SB489/HB952 AN ACT RELATIVE TO MEDICAL MALPRACTICER INSURANCE FOR DENTISTS**

The proposed legislation would prohibit malpractice insurance providers from denying coverage to dentists on the basis that they have signed a collaborative agreement with a public health dental hygienist.

This Bill has been _____

- **SB1121/HB1989 AN ACT RELATIVE TO PUBLIC HEALTH DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

The legislation would allow Public Health Dental Hygienists to bill third party insurance carriers, so that they are appropriately reimbursed for all services provided, and can continue to expand access to care for all citizens in the Commonwealth who need it most regardless of the type of insurance they hold.

This Bill has been _____

- **SB1118/HB249 was filed in January 2015. AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN ADVANCED DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTITIONER LEVEL OF PRACTICE**

UPDATE July 2016

- ❖ Senate Majority Leader Harriette Chandler and Representative Smitty Pignatelli's proposal to authorize dental hygiene practitioners was ultimately not included in the conference committee report last week.
- ❖ **While the outcome ended our chances of enactment this legislative session, our progress this session was a very big step forward.** Consider that the bill 1) passed the Senate 39-0, one of the strongest chamber votes in support of dental therapy in the nation, 2) was supported by 30 organizations representing seniors, children, mental health and developmental disabilities

communities, immigrants, hospitals and more, and 3) was endorsed by the Boston Globe and Berkshire Eagle.

- ❖ **By any measure, that constitutes incredible progress.**
- ❖ This was only possible because of the amazing work of our bill sponsors and many partners (listed below) from across the advocacy community. This effort is a tough one, and Sen. Chandler and Rep. Pignatelli's leadership, vision and sheer force of will drove the ship every step of the way. It was also the stories and real-world experiences from our partners and their members that shined the light on the access challenges and dire need for this provider.
- ❖ **Though we were unsuccessful, make no mistake – we will be back next session!**
- ❖ Put simply, there are too many stories of lack of access, too much data emphasizing the problem and too much overwhelming evidence that this provider will help address access gaps for us to stop now. We built powerful momentum this session, and we will come back even stronger next year to get across the finish line and improve dental care access for thousands of people in need.
- ❖ Special thanks go out to our Champions, Senator Chandler and Representative Pignatelli, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and Charles Glick and Kate Saville, our lobbyists' from Charles Group Consulting. Also a big **THANKS** to all of you! Your strong advocacy efforts are appreciated. **We will keep you posted as we start planning ahead for victory next session.**

All the best,

Massachusetts Dental Hygienists' Association

Council on Regulations & Practice

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❖ **THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!**

AARP Massachusetts, The ARC of Massachusetts, Boston College Immigration Integration Lab, Boston Foundation, Commonwealth Care Alliance, Community Catalyst, The Forsyth Institute, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Health Care for All, Health Imperatives, Hillcrest Dental Care, IMPRINT Project, Lynn Economic Opportunity, Massachusetts Adult Day Services Association, Massachusetts Association for School-Based Health Care, Massachusetts Coalition for Oral Health, Massachusetts Home Care Association, Massachusetts Hospital Association, Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Massachusetts Public Health Association, Massachusetts School Nurses Organization, Massachusetts Senior Action Council, Massachusetts Senior Care Association, Mount Ida College, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Revere CARES, Stand for Children Massachusetts

