

Government Relations Update

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As you know from the last journal, the Dental Board is going through a Sunset Review process and changes and notations have been made known by CDAA, CADAT, and FADE. CDAA has been diligently advocating for the profession of Dental Assisting.

There are two bills, AB178 and AB179, which have been brought forward by Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla. Both have passed the Assembly and will soon be presented to the Senate. AB178 imposes a one-year moratorium on the RDA practical until such time as the Board and the State Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) concludes a validating assessment called an Occupational Analysis. It does not permanently remove the practical examination. We are monitoring the progress of these two bills.

As part of this process, your CDAA representatives traveled to Sacramento, meeting with CADAT representatives and worked on the regulatory language the Dental Board of California is considering adopting into the Sunset Review documentation for AB179. We had the opportunity to meet with the legislative representatives regarding the status of AB 178 and AB 179. We were able to discuss with her some continuing issues related to the Sunset Review and as a result have submitted some amendments to the language that will strengthen our profession. These relate to the composition, tenure and leadership of the Dental Assisting Council and their responsibilities.

We also attended a Dental Assisting Council workshop on June 19th to review and discuss the regulatory language. During the workshop, the groups of assistants/educators present gave feedback and input to the Council on the Radiation Health and Safety portion. That input will be put together and then reviewed again before being sent forward. Workshops will continue until all the language is reviewed; we anticipate that the next workshop will be scheduled before the next Dental Board meeting in August. We will keep you posted on the progress!

Your CDAA board is continuing to advocate for the profession of Dental Assisting. If you have any questions, comments or would like to actively participate in this process, contact me at shellysorensencdaa@hotmail.com

In the meantime, AB 178 (the bill that will put a moratorium on the RDA Practical Exam until the Dental Board reviews and determines how best to proceed) will be reviewed by the Senate Business and Professions Committee on June 29th. Below is a list of the members of the Committee. Please send a le

Members of the Senate Business & Profession Committee

Jerry Hill, San Mateo
Patricia Bates, San Juan Capistrano
Tom Berryhill, Oakdale, CA
Marty Block, San Diego
Cathleen Galgiani, Stockton
Ed Hernandez, West Covina
Hannah-Beth Jackson, Santa Barbara
Tony Mendoza, Montebello
Bob Wieckowski, San Leandro

Link with specific contact info, including email.

<http://senate.ca.gov/senators>