Board Resolution
From: WSDA Board of Directors
To: House of Delegates
 September 2025

**HD-10-2025**

**WSDA Legislative Agenda for 2026**

RESOLVED, that notwithstanding the legislative positions and core principles outlined in this legislative agenda, the Association’s legislative priorities, which shall supersede and take primacy over all others, are as follows:

1. Legislation that a) improves dental benefits policies and processes negatively impacting patient care or b) reduces detrimental interference of dental benefits carriers in the doctor-patient relationship
2. Legislation that mitigates the severe shortages of dental hygienists and dental assistants in Washington state;

And be it further

RESOLVED, that WSDA supports state revenue policies that are fair to dentistry and opposes tax and fee increases that negatively affect dentistry;

And be it further

RESOLVED, that WSDA supports the preservation and extension of funding for dental Medicaid, dental residency programs, Federally Qualified Health Center dental clinics, loan repayment programs, ~~the RIDE program~~dental schools headquartered in the State of Washington, and other state funded initiatives that reduce barriers to dental care without compromising patient safety;

And be it further

RESOLVED, that WSDA will oppose enacted or proposed legislation that creates, expands the scope of care, or expands the approved clinical settings for dental therapists, dental hygiene therapists, or any other non-dentist provider that performs irreversible procedures;

And be it further

RESOLVED, that WSDA will oppose any legislation that amends the definition of dentistry found in RCW 18.32.020 (3) to allow non-dentists to own dental practices or otherwise interfere in the doctor-patient relationship;

And be it further

RESOLVED, that WSDA supports reforms to the Medicaid audit process;

And be it further

RESOLVED, that WSDA supports legislation that prioritizes the payment of preventive dental care provided by dentists prior to an individual’s deductible being met;

And be it further

RESOLVED, that WSDA supports reforms to dental benefits that will result in better patient care;

And be it further

RESOLVED, that WSDA supports legislation to address the dental workforce shortage crisis in Washington state.

And be it further

RESOLVED, that the WSDA supports legislation that codifies the right of dentists to provide in office membership plans/wellness partnerships to their patients;

And be it further

RESOLVED, that WSDA reaffirms the following policy in determining its annual legislative agenda:

The Legislative Session Task Force, in consultation with the Board of Directors, will apply the following core principles and the existing political climate of the Legislature to any given legislative position to determine its advocacy strategy.

1. It is in the best health and safety interest of the public at large and dental providers.

2. It maintains and protects the diagnostic authority of the dentist.

3. It is cost-effective for the public.

4. It is cost effective for the dental profession.

5. It addresses those in need of dental services and provides adequate reimbursement to the provider of the dental service.

6. It maintains the integrity of the dental delivery system.

1. It maintains that only a dentist can provide irreversible procedures within the scope of their practice.

And be it further

RESOLVED, that the Association supports the following dental workforce initiatives:

Amend RCW 18.260.010 to allow dental assistants to add general supervision to their scope (Gives DQAC rulemaking authority and presents the opportunity to add more than disinfecting operatories and sterilizing equipment).

Amend RCW 18.260.070 to allow EFDAs to disinfect operatories and sterilize equipment under general supervision.

Amend RCW 18.260.040 to allow dental assistants to do the following procedures under close supervision:

* Dental prophylaxis for patients in a healthy oral state including the polishing and scaling of teeth with supragingival, “visible” calculus
	+ Periodontal probing
	+ Gross debridement of supragingival, “visible” calculus with a non-invasive ultrasonic device

Require the Dental Quality Assurance Commission to establish criteria for initial training and continuing education requirements for dental assistants who wish to perform the procedures described above under close supervision.

Amend RCW 18.29.190 to include a core hygiene license that does not require hygienists to obtain the required education and training in restorative or anesthesia and nitrous oxide, but rather makes it optional and achievable through endorsement.

And be it further

RESOLVED, that the Association will work to implement the following dental benefit reform legislation.

1. Assignment of Benefits
2. Independent Claims Review
3. Silent PPO Network Rental Affiliated Network Clause Transparency
4. Retroactive Denials-Post Payment Audits
5. Virtual Credit Card
6. Dental Loss Ratio
7. Modifications to Dental Benefits that Increase the Accessibility of Preventive Dental Care
8. ~~Other~~ Policies that Increase Competition in the Dental Benefits Market and/or increase Patient Choice

And be it further

RESOLVED, that WSDA maintains its support of the following resolutions passed in prior annual sessions of the House of Delegates:

1. HD-10-2014: supporting legislation to merge the current dental hygiene committee with DQAC; opposition of legislation that would create an independent dental hygiene board.
2. HD-17-2014: developing and supporting legislation to revise the definition of dentistry in RCW 18.32.020 subparts (1) and (2) to be consistent with language developed by the ADA.
3. HD-09-2011: expanding the scope of the Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries (EFDAs) to include supragingival scaling, gross debridement and local anesthesia with appropriate training as determined by the Dental Commission and under the direct supervision of a dentist.
4. HD-22-2024: allowing foreign trained dentists to become dental hygienists.

end