

Board Report on HD-20-2024

To: House of Delegates
September 2025

At the 2024 House of Delegates, the House voted to refer HD-20-2024 to the Board of Directors. This report outlines the Board's decision on this matter.

HD-20-2024 proposed the creation of a two-year Director at Large position appointed by the WSDA Board of Directors. The intent behind this resolution was to address the ongoing challenge of engaging young doctors in leadership. This resolution drew on a model established by the British Columbia Dental Association, which they used as pathways for younger leaders to serve and contribute at the board level.

After review, the Board recognized the value and importance of developing leadership opportunities for young doctors. However, after careful consideration, the Board determined that establishing a Director at Large position appointed by the Board was not the best approach at this time. The Board acknowledged both the intent and the challenges raised in the resolution, but also weighed other factors related to governance, elections, and member representation. The Board believes it is important to note that several early-career dentists have successfully run and been elected to the WSDA Board of Directors in the last several years. Fundamentally, the Board thinks that preserving at-large elections for Board candidates is the best way to ensure broad representation across multiple factors.

Therefore, the Board recommends no further action on HD-20-2024. The House of Delegates is hereby informed that the Board considered this resolution thoroughly and concluded that existing structures, along with continued efforts to engage and support young doctors through other leadership pathways, are the most appropriate means to address the concerns outlined.

end

HD-20-2024
Director at Large Position

Background Statement. There has been an ongoing desire within the Washington State Dental Association by its leaders, delegates, and members to increase engagement with young doctors and encourage them to step into leadership roles. However, accomplishing this has posed a challenge. Young doctors typically have not had the time to engage, network and build relationships within the profession and with the Delegates who are responsible for electing new Directors. In the past, capable young doctors have been passed over for Board of Director positions because of the challenges of getting elected at the House of Delegates. This resolution is modeled after a program that the British Columbia Dental Association implemented in 2009 which has mitigated the above mentioned challenges and has successfully identified young leaders and have benefitted from their talents. This resolution is beneficial to all component societies.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that a two (2) year Director at Large position be established and appointed by the Board of Directors. An application and interview are required. The Director at Large must have graduated from a CODA accredited program within the past 7 years, be licensed to practice dentistry in the State of Washington without any restrictions, and be a member of the Washington State Dental Association.

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