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2 Board Resolution
3 From: WSDA Board of Directors
4 To: House of Delegates
5 September 2025

6 **HD-10-2025**
7 **WSDA Legislative Agenda for 2026**
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9 RESOLVED, that notwithstanding the legislative positions and core principles outlined
10 in this legislative agenda, the Association's legislative priorities, which shall supersede
11 and take primacy over all others, are as follows:
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- 13 1. Legislation that a) improves dental benefits policies and processes negatively
14 impacting patient care or b) reduces detrimental interference of dental benefits
15 carriers in the doctor-patient relationship
- 16 2. Legislation that mitigates the severe shortages of dental hygienists and dental
17 assistants in Washington state;

18 And be it further
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20 RESOLVED, that WSDA supports state revenue policies that are fair to dentistry and
21 opposes tax and fee increases that negatively affect dentistry;
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23 And be it further
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25 RESOLVED, that WSDA supports the preservation and extension of funding for dental
26 Medicaid, dental residency programs, Federally Qualified Health Center dental clinics,
27 loan repayment programs, ~~the RIDE program~~ dental schools headquartered in the
28 State of Washington, and other state funded initiatives that reduce barriers to dental
29 care without compromising patient safety;
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31 And be it further
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33 RESOLVED, that WSDA will oppose enacted or proposed legislation that creates,
34 expands the scope of care, or expands the approved clinical settings for dental
35 therapists, dental hygiene therapists, or any other non-dentist provider that performs
36 irreversible procedures;
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38 And be it further
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40 RESOLVED, that WSDA will oppose any legislation that amends the definition of
41 dentistry found in RCW 18.32.020 (3) to allow non-dentists to own dental practices or
42 otherwise interfere in the doctor-patient relationship;
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44 And be it further
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46 RESOLVED, that WSDA supports reforms to the Medicaid audit process;
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48 And be it further
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50 RESOLVED, that WSDA supports legislation that prioritizes the payment of preventive
51 dental care provided by dentists prior to an individual's deductible being met;

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53 And be it further

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

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58 And be it further

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

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63 And be it further

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

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68 And be it further

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

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

- 76
77 1. It is in the best health and safety interest of the public at large and dental
78 providers.
79 2. It maintains and protects the diagnostic authority of the dentist.
80 3. It is cost-effective for the public.
81 4. It is cost effective for the dental profession.
82 5. It addresses those in need of dental services and provides adequate
83 reimbursement to the provider of the dental service.
84 6. It maintains the integrity of the dental delivery system.
85 7. It maintains that only a dentist can provide irreversible procedures within
86 the scope of their practice.

87
88 And be it further

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

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

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

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

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 - Dental prophylaxis for patients in a healthy oral state including the

100 polishing and scaling of teeth with supragingival, "visible" calculus

101
 - 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