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2 Board Resolution
3 From: Board of Directors
4 To: House of Delegates
5 September 2025
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7 **HD-13-2025**
8 **Concerning the Independence of the**
9 **Washington State Dental Quality Assurance Commission**
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11 Background Statement. The Washington State Dental Association (WSDA) is closely
12 monitoring discussions regarding the potential transition of the Washington State
13 Dental Quality Assurance Commission (Commission) to a more independent operating
14 model. The Commission currently functions under a Joint Operating Agreement with
15 the Department of Health (DOH) where the Commission receives legal and
16 administrative support with limited oversight.
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18 Persistent challenges, including high staff turnover, sluggish legal counsel, and limited
19 authority over operations, have prompted serious consideration of a structural change
20 by several current and former members of the Commission. These concerns were
21 underscored in recent Commission meetings and contrasted with presentations from
22 more autonomous health profession boards, such as the Medical, Nursing, and
23 Chiropractic Commissions. These other commissions have demonstrated greater
24 operational stability, transparency, and responsiveness through their transitions to a
25 more independent operating model.
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27 Establishing increased independence for the Commission will require the passage of
28 legislation.
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30 The Commission has formed a sub-committee to explore the feasibility and
31 implications of increased independence. WSDA believes any such transition must be
32 approached thoughtfully and guided by principles that ensure transparency, fiscal
33 responsibility, operational efficiency and engagement from stakeholders.
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35 As the voice of more than 4,000 licensed dentists, WSDA has a vested interest in
36 ensuring stakeholder input is prioritized, professional representation is strengthened,
37 and the Commission's operations are efficient and effective.
38

39 Therefore, be it
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41 RESOLVED, that the Association supports the Washington State Dental Quality
42 Assurance Commission (Commission) operating under more independent authority in
43 alignment with the following principles:

- 44 • **Financial Prudence:** Increasing independence empowers the Commission to
45 more effectively manage licensure and registration revenues collected from
46 health professions under the jurisdiction of the Commission as well as the
47 expenses associated with regulating the aforementioned health professions
48 through increased budgeting authority.

- **Sustainability:** If independence is increased, the Commission must be able to sustainably manage its operations without significantly increasing licensure or registration fees for the health professions under its jurisdiction.
- **Accountability:** At a minimum, the Commission is able to hire, fire, and evaluate a chief staff executive and legal counsel that oversees the administration of the Commission.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Any transition should include structured opportunities for feedback from all impacted stakeholders and the public.

end