



AB 334

Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor

For the Record my name is Caryn Solie, I've been a Registered Dental Hygienist for 54 March 21, 2025

years. The Nevada Dental Hygienists' Association supports sections 1 and 2 of AB 334, as we recognize the need for more qualified healthcare professionals to practice in Nevada and we encourage multiple efforts toward that goal.

On behalf of the Nevada Dental Hygienists' Association (NDHA) I am expressing opposition to section 3 #11 and #12 of this bill. The NDHA and the Nevada Dental Association (NDA) collaborated during the last legislative session to craft SB 310, creating the Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) and outlining the restorative duties of that new entity.

Section 3 item #11 was a much-discussed issue resulting in the compromised wording in the existing statute. Please retain the wording in the original bill, allowing the "EFDA to use the ultrasonic scaling unit only for the removal of bonding agents. This subsection does not authorize an EFDA to use the ultrasonic scaling unit on any natural tooth." The rationale for this original language was to assist the dentist in restorative services and to be safe for the patient.

Section 3 item #12 allowing "coronal scaling" – which means above the gumline only – has no proven health improvement or benefit for the patient. The definition of dental cleaning is both above and below the gumline instrumentation to remove biofilm, plaque, tarter, calculus and stains. Dental hygienists must graduate from an accredited education program where they complete hundreds of hours of skills training and assessments of the proper techniques of that instrumentation. This bill does not address the education that the EFDA would need to learn the skills of coronal scaling. There is no EFDA education program currently available in Nevada. NDHA asks that #12 be struck from the bill.

Additionally, will patients be informed that they are receiving only an above-the-gum line cleaning from an Expanded Function Dental Assistant? Will the patients and their insurance be billed for EFDA coronal scaling at the same fee as the service provided by the dental hygienist?

Considering that the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners has not adopted regulations for the expanded function dental assistant and no training programs are in place in Nevada the Nevada Dental Hygienists' Association feels that section 3 items 11 and 12 as proposed in AB 334 should not be adopted.

Respectfully,

Caryn Solie, RDH, FADHA

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DENTAL HYGIENE PROCESS OF CARE⁶ There are six components to the dental hygiene process of care. These include: assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation, and documentation. The six components provide a framework for person-centered care activities,

