



SB 495

May 26, 2025

Nevada Senate and Assembly Joint Health and Human Services Committee

The Nevada Dental Hygienists' Association (NDHA) is opposed to sections 77-79 of SB 495 as they pertain to "on the job training" for dental hygienists in Nevada.

We recognize that there is a healthcare workforce concern across the country in the post-covid environment and clearly, we acknowledge that every county in Nevada needs oral healthcare professionals.

The profession of Dental Hygiene has safely served the public for more than 100 years. Our education consists of over 2900 hours of didactic and clinical skills and is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Dental Hygienists with master's and doctorate degrees are the key educators of our profession. The skill sets that are required to complete our degree programs are very stringent. We must pass an 8-hour written National Examination and pass with at least 75% to move on to taking certified practical clinical examinations to be licensed to practice.

Sections 77-79 of this bill remove those requirements and place the public at risk for poorer care leading to worsening overall health.

The NDHA collaborated with other Nevada Dental organizations and supported other bills this session that would increase licensure portability for dentists and dental hygienists in Nevada, but unfortunately that bill did not survive. Additionally, NDHA is striving to reduce the supervision obstacles within the state practice act to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our current workforce.

Please strike sections 77-79 of SB 495 that would create a lesser qualified care giver.

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