



FOUNDED IN 1884

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
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October 27, 2017

Dear State Leader:

The Florida Dental Association (FDA) supports having a qualified dental workforce providing optimal dental care to all patients.

Dentists are educated and trained to address a myriad of health conditions as doctors of oral health. Many times, other underlying medical issues are discovered during a routine dental visit that could be an indicator of something more serious. During these situations, dentists are trained to comprehensively diagnose their patients' condition and if needed, collaborate with other health care professionals to provide the most appropriate care. Quality dental care cannot be compromised, especially when the treatment plan for a patient involves surgery or irreversible procedures.

To help you understand the background of dentists, enclosed is a flyer outlining the education and training involved in getting a dental degree (DDS – Doctor of Dental Surgery or a DMD – Doctor of Dental Medicine) and a license to practice. The FDA believes that “The Root of Quality Dental Health is Education and Training,” and it is important that this is not compromised as we explore a variety of options and initiatives to improve access to dental care around the state.

The FDA is proposing legislation that will help place dentists in underserved communities around the state. HB 369 by Rep. Colleen Burton will encourage dentists to work in public health settings as full-time Medicaid providers and be eligible for assistance in repaying their dental student loan. Sen. Aaron Bean will sponsor the Senate version of this legislation.

For additional information on the FDA's legislative priorities, please contact Joe Anne Hart, Chief Legislative Officer, at jahart@floridadental.org or (850) 224-1089.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael D. Eggnatz, DDS'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line through the middle.

Michael D. Eggnatz, DDS
FDA President

Enclosure