Nevada Dental Association

END OF SESSION REPORT 2025

TriStrategies

The path to legislative success

- **January – March 2024**: We start every legislative season gathering feedback and bill ideas from Nevada Dental Association's (NDA) members to shape a legislative agenda that delivers maximum value. Through component society town halls, member surveys, and legislative workshops, several industry challenges were identified to shape our legislative priorities. Several proposals were advanced to the Council on Government Affairs (CGA) for review. The top three most pressing issues indicated by a March membership survey were addressing **claim denials**, the shortage of **hygienists**, and the **prompt payment of claims**.

- **April 2024**: Of all the proposals, the CGA *narrowed* the initiatives to focus and pursue legislation that:
    1. Establishes an appeal process between providers and insurance plans to address unfair claim denials;
    2. Allows for the immediate licensure of out-of-state hygienists;
    3. Ratifies the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact; and
    4. Seeks to increase Medicaid rates.

- **June 2024**: These four priorities were then presented to the Executive Council (EC) and approved. The House of Delegates requested a fifth and sixth effort: one to prevent insurers from restricting coverage for multiple procedures performed in a single session, and another to ensure timely insurance claim payments.

- **July – Oct 2024**: With six initiatives prioritized and our agenda set, we drafted bill language and secured legislative sponsors.

- **November 2024**: The lobby team was then tasked with pursuing a seventh effort, adding coronal scaling authority for Expanded Function Dental Assistants (EFDA). This effort was added to our immediate licensure of out-of-state hygienists bill.

- **February 2025**: After the legislative session began, NDA members voiced strong opposition to the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact (AB134), leading EC to withdraw support. Without our help, the bill would subsequently die. Meanwhile, state budget constraints and threats of federal medicaid cuts *stifled* our Medicaid rate-increase legislation.

- **March 2025:** As we launched a *robust* campaign to expand the scope-of-practice of EFDAs, the TMCC training program, critical to supporting this legislation, was suspended. Furthermore, the state dental board had not yet finalized the regulatory rules for EFDAs. As a result, legislators deemed the EFDA provision of our hygiene licensure bill inadequate. We removed that section from the bill, restoring the legislation to its original scope and intent to focus on the immediate licensure of out-of-state hygienists.

- **April 2025**: While advancing our insurance reforms and dental care access bills, we also successfully amended three bills to align with NDA member's interests, including:

    - SB78, which proposed reducing the number of dentists on the dental board, was amended to maintain the board's current composition. *This bill later died.*
    - SB268, allowing public health hygienists to bill insurance for treatments, was amended to apply only to nonprofit organizations and limited to procedures not requiring a diagnosis. *This bill passed on 5/22.*
    - SB378, prohibiting noncompetition covenants for patient-facing health care providers, was amended to include dentists. **This legislation benefits dentists by invalidating noncompete covenants for those primarily engaged in clinical care, enabling them to practice without geographic or temporal restrictions after leaving an employer.** *This bill passed on 6/2, but was* ***VETOED by the Governor.***

    We proposed an amendment to AB463, a prior-authorization bill, to prohibit insurers from limiting coverage for multiple procedures performed in a single session. The amendment was initially accepted but later withdrawn by the bill's sponsor after the legislation was revised

to focus solely on prior authorizations, making our amendment non-germane to the updated bill.

The Governor's office introduced their Healthcare Access Act, which included an *alternative pathway for dental hygienist licensing*, allowing supervised training with a licensed dentist instead of requiring a CODA-accredited program. The NDA supported the bill, facing strong opposition from hygienist associations. *The bill passed the Senate, but failed in the Assembly.*

- **May 2025**: Success realized!
    - Our primary insurance reform bill establishing an appeal process between providers and insurance plans (AB202) **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** on 5/19.
    - Our *primary workforce bill* to allow for the immediate licensure for out-of-state hygienists **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** on 5/23.
    - AB52 requiring prompt payment of insurance claims **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** on 5/31.

*The passage of these three bills address the three most pressing issues indicated by a March membership survey.

- **June 2025**: Continued success!
    - We partnered with the medical association on a bill (AB463) to streamline prior authorization processes. The bill **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** on 6/2.
    - UNLV Dental School sought funds to create a cleft and craniofacial program (SB280). We were asked to help pass this legislation in an effort to support UNLV Dental School. The bill **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** on 6/2.

Messaging success and benefits to members:

AB202 (External review of claim denial) added dental care into the state's external review process to protect patients from unfair claim denials for medically-necessary treatments. **This legislation benefits dentists by ensuring fairer approval of treatments and reducing financial losses from denied claims.**

- *How it works:* Upon request of a dental patient and/or provider, the Office for Consumer Health Assistance can assign an independent organization to review the claim denial, and enforce coverage if it's determined the claim was unjustly denied and the treatment is medically-necessary. To learn more about the bill, view the presentation deck HERE, the bill file HERE. Example social post HERE.

AB334 (Hygienist licensure) allows for the more immediate licensure of hygienists who are licensed in other states. **This legislation benefits dentists by removing the five-year work requirement for out-of-state dental hygienists to obtain licensure by endorsement, enabling faster hiring to address workforce shortages.** This increases practice capacity, reduces recruitment costs, and improves patient access to care, especially in underserved areas with critical dental professional shortages.

- *How it works*: The bill eliminates the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners' authority to mandate that licensed hygienists relocating to or seeking to practice in Nevada have work experience to qualify for licensure by endorsement. Prior to the passage of AB334, Nevada's five-year active practice requirement for dental hygienist licensure by endorsement was the most stringent in the country. For comparison, Texas and Maryland require three years, Ohio and Utah require two, and so on. Most states do not require any years of practice. Nevada had the highest barrier; today, we've eliminated it entirely, going from worst to first. To learn more, view the presentation deck HERE or the bill file HERE. Example social post HERE

Prompt payment of claims - AB52 (Asm. Jauragui): Requires dental insurers to speed up claim processing, approving and paying within 21 days for electronic submissions or a month for non-electronic. **This legislation benefits dentists by ensuring faster reimbursement and improved cash flow.** Insurers risk fines or suspension if claims exceed 60 working days. It also requires detailed denial notices within 30 working days and yearly payment updates for providers and patients. Dental providers gain a streamlined denial dispute process, and uniform timelines apply across all insurers. To learn more click, HERE.

Prior-authorization bills - AB463 (Asm. Backus) The legislation benefits dentists by streamlining prior authorization processes, requiring insurer responses within two business days, exempting preventive dental care from authorization, and reducing time-wasting barriers.

UNLV cleft and craniofacial program - SB280 (Sen. Nguyen) provides funding to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Dental Medicine to establish a cleft and craniofacial medical team. **This legislation benefits dentists by enabling an opportunity to receive advanced training in treating complex conditions like cleft lip and palate.** In addition, the legislation increases patient access to specialized care, potentially boosting patient volume and professional opportunities for dentists involved with or referred by the program. To learn more, click HERE.

Conclusion:

Reflecting on the past two sessions where Tri-Strategies represented the NDA at the Nevada Legislature, we celebrate the success of passing critical reforms, including retroactive claim denials, teledentistry, immunization administration, dental loss ratio, and more. This session proved even more impactful. We're thrilled to report that we strategically and effectively addressed the **top three priorities identified by NDA members**, delivering maximum value for membership dues and engagement.

THANK YOU.

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