

## Government Relations Update

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September 1, 2023

As many of you know, the Alliance has been working for months on CDA's sponsored bill AB481. This bill was layered with changes to scope of practice, education requirements, and alternative pathways to licensure. Month, weeks, and hours of meetings were held to discuss and negotiate details and concerns related to the profession of dental assisting and dental assisting education relative to this bill.

AB481 was at its last steps to move for final approval by the Senate and then move to the governor's desk to be signed into law January 1, 2024. But all that changed today. September 1, 2023, also known as Suspense Day at the capital, was indeed true to its name. Just today, the bill was placed in suspense through the Senate Appropriations Committee, meaning AB481 has been put into suspense, thus the bill will not be passed this year. A bill is put into suspense when there are financial issues with concerns for the taxpayers regarding the implementation of that law. We do anticipate another similar bill to be introduced next year, but we will need to wait to see what is presented.

Check out this link for additional details on this bill. <https://legiscan.com/CA/bill/AB481/2023> and this link <https://sapro.senate.ca.gov/node/59> for details on the hearings from today, September 1, 2023.

In other news, at the last Dental Board meeting, held August 17-18, 2023 in Sacramento, the Dental Board rescinded their decision from the previous May board meeting, that was to dissolve the Dental Assisting Council (DAC). This decision to reinstate the DAC, was based on the responses received by the stakeholders (that means you!), and organizations. That was an extremely important agenda item and was passed by the board. The DAC's representation is imperative to our future and the profession. We are delighted to have the board rescind their previous decision.

What does that mean for the future of the DAC? That means that we need YOU to get involved politically and stay involved in what is happening in the profession.

Moving forward, we have Sunset review coming up for the DBC. We will be asking for your insights and input regarding your feedback on the DBC's performance and suggestions for them to improve moving forward.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve and represent you.