

Government Relations Article

Shari Becker, CDA, RDA, FADAA

January 9, 2024

Welcome to 2024! The new year will be bringing new bills, new laws, new leadership. The last quarter of 2023 was a busy time and a great way to end the year!

November 2023 was a busy month with meetings in Sacramento. Our lobbyist, Cody Boyles, Claudia Pohl, Melodi Randolph and I met with four legislative representatives' aides to share, educate and discuss issues involving dental assisting.

November 23-24, 2023, as an invited guest, I attended the California Dental Association annual meeting that was held at the Hyatt Hotel, Sacramento. The newly installed President, Dr. Carliza Marcos from San Carlos will bring a fresh energy to the CDA leadership. Robust discussion and decisions were made over the 2-day meeting. CDAA looks forward to our continued relationship with CDA in 2024.

2024 will be a very busy year. The Dental Board of CA will be going through the sunset process in March. CDAA has submitted a letter of support for the DBC to continue with recommendations regarding representation, scope of practice and licensure.

You may ask what is sunset review? The Department of Consumer Affairs boards and bureaus are responsible for protecting consumers and the public and regulating the professionals they license. The sunset review process provides an opportunity for the DCA, the Legislature, the boards, and interested parties and stakeholders to discuss the performance of the boards, and make recommendations for improvements.

What does that mean for you? The Sunset Review hearing is an opportunity for stakeholders to bring forward suggestions and testimony regarding the performance of the board, both past, present and future.

The Alliance continues to meet with Tracy Montez to keep communication lines current and open. The Dental Board and Dental Assisting Council meeting will be held February 8-9, 2024 in Sacramento.

AB481 was held in suspense last year, but we do expect to see a new bill in 2024 that will look familiar. Stay tuned.

Are you interested in this legislative information? Want to learn more? We would welcome you joining us at a meeting. You matter and make a difference. Can't attend a meeting? We still need to hear from you...contact me directly at sharibecker@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you for the privilege of serving.