

## Government Relations report

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There continues to be much activity in the legislative arena.

The Alliance continues to have regular meetings networking with the Dental Board and Executive Officer Tracy Montez. Meetings also continue with CDA collaborating on future issues and legislative language. Cody Boyles, our lobbyist, has been scheduling multiple meetings with legislators and staff to meet and discuss concerns in the profession.

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the Dental Board of CA will have its Sunset Review hearing in Sacramento. The Assembly Business and Professions Committee and the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee hold joint sunset review oversight hearings to review the boards and bureaus under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). The DCA 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. The recommendations from the Sunset Review will be brought forward in a bill. That bill will potentially contain new language addressing stated concerns and recommendations. Letters of support for the DBC to continue have been submitted along with 4 main areas of concern that include additional representation on the dental board from one RDA to three. Other concerns include updating the scope of practice, addressing the educational regulations, and having the unlicensed dental assistant register through the BreEze. The California Dental Association also has language they are hoping will be included into the sunset bill language that may include additional pathways to licensure and changes in scope of practice.

The last DBC meeting was held February 9<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. Due to a weather issue, the DAC did not have a meeting. However, it was noted that the infection control regulation is going to be reviewed and updated along with the educational regulations. There will be future workgroups for stakeholder participation. Applications for the two dental assisting council positions were received and Rose Olague and Joanne Pacheco were appointed to review the applications.

The next DAC/DBC meeting will be held in Southern California May 15-16, 2024. Location TBD but will be in proximity to CDA Presents Anaheim, which is being held May 16-18, 2024.

Thank you again for the honor of representing and participating in these important meetings and processes.