



CALIFORNIA
DENTAL ASSISTANTS
ASSOCIATION

Date: December 21, 2024

To: California Dental Assistants Association Members

From: California Dental Assistants Association Board of Directors

Subject: Termination of Affiliation with American Dental Assistants Association

The California Dental Assistants Association (CDA A) is concluding its partnership with the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), effective January 15, 2025. Thereafter, renewal membership with CDA A will not include affiliation with the ADAA.

This decision has not been made lightly, and it comes after careful consideration of several ongoing challenges in our relationship with ADAA. For many years, our affiliation with ADAA was mutually beneficial, and we greatly valued this partnership. However, over the past several years, CDA A has faced persistent difficulties related to ADAA's failure to fulfill its financial obligations, particularly in regard to delayed rebate payments and the lack of clarity surrounding outstanding balances. Despite our best efforts to resolve these issues—through discussions and meetings beginning in March 2023 and continuing into August 2024—these concerns have not been satisfactorily addressed.

In addition to financial concerns, we have received feedback from many members regarding ADAA's communication and member services. This has been compounded by a noticeable decline in membership and growing frustrations around ADAA's lack of responsiveness to members' needs. One significant concern was the abrupt cancellation of professional liability insurance coverage without consulting or involving members in the decision.

The CDA A Board of Directors has worked diligently to explore all possible options and to seek a resolution that would benefit our members. After extensive deliberation and consultation with legal counsel, the CDA A Board voted on October 2, 2024, to terminate the partnership with ADAA. This decision was then presented to our membership at a Special General Assembly held on December 21, 2024, where the majority of members supported the decision to move forward with the termination.

What does this mean to you as a current ADAA/CDA A member? CDA A members will continue to enjoy joint membership benefits with ADAA until the conclusion of their current annual membership term, which has already been paid for.

We want to reassure you that this decision was made in the best interest of our members, and CDA A will continue to provide strong leadership and advocacy for dental assistants in California. We remain committed to offering valuable resources, education, and support to our members as we move forward.

Thank you for your continued support, and please feel free to reach out with any questions.