

LEADERS AND CONTACTS OF THE IOWA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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Sergeant Bluff

Dr. Martin Gleason, President-Elect
Fairfield

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Farley

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Des Moines

Dr. Heyo Tjarks, Speaker of the House
Dubuque

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Davenport

Dr. Zachary Kouri, Des Moines District
Des Moines

Dr. Thomas King, Dubuque District
Dubuque

Dr. Robert Ronconi, Fort Dodge District
Fort Dodge

Dr. Nathan Hehr, North Central District
Mason City

Dr. Shamayne Frank, Northwest District
Sioux City

Dr. Cynthia Phillips, Southeast District
Ottumwa

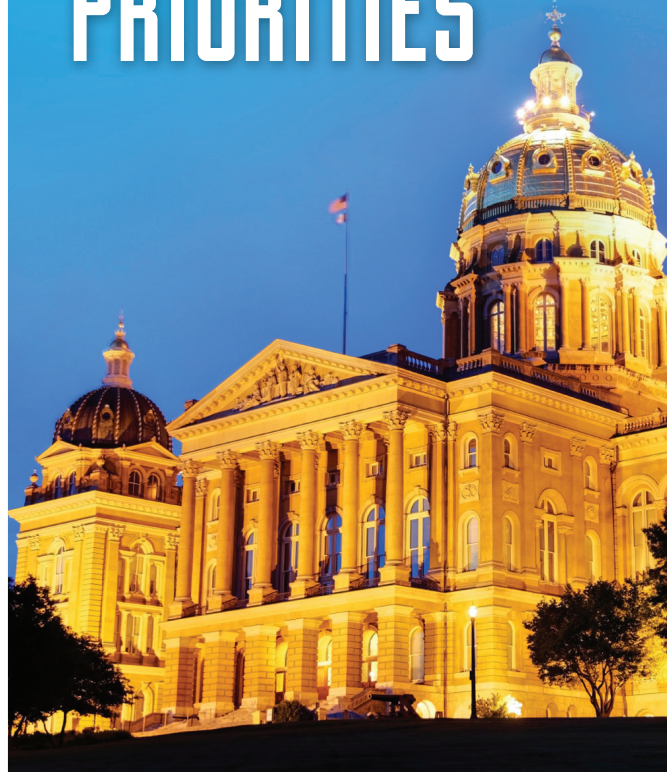
Dr. Maria Fuller, Southwest District
Corning

Dr. Shawn Hedlund, University District
Iowa City

Dr. John Arend, Waterloo District
Independence

2018 IOWA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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IOWA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

The Iowa Dental Association is the largest, most representative professional oral health association in Iowa. The IDA has been in existence for over 150 years and has, as its members, over 85 percent of the practicing dentists in the state.



While most professional organizations actually represent only a small percentage of its "constituency group," the IDA's broad membership reflects a unique commitment by dentists to work together to enhance their profession and their work on behalf of their patients and all Iowans. Each member of the Iowa Dental Association is also a member of one of ten district societies in the state and, individually, holds membership in the American Dental Association.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Iowa Dental Association is to encourage the improvement of the health of the public, to promote the art and science of dentistry and to represent the interests of the members of the dental profession and the public that it serves.

The average dental office, according to a recent analysis, has an economic impact of about \$1.3 million annually, creating about 13 jobs, more than a half million dollars in labor income, and \$200,000 in taxes. For Iowa, the total economic impact of the state's practicing dentists would be about \$1.6 billion annually.

WORKING TOGETHER ...

The majority of Iowa's 1,500 dentists practice independently or in small groups with one to five other dentists. They have a strong positive impact on their communities, delivering not only professional oral health care to their individual patients, but contributing their time and efforts to support a variety of community activities.

Dentists contribute in many other ways also. According to a study by the American Dental Association, most private practice dentists provide free or reduced rate services to those in need. This is in addition to the many organized public health programs in which many dentists voluntarily participate throughout the year. The estimate of the value of this private practice care exceeds \$8,000 per year per dentist. For Iowa, that value would total about \$12 million annually.

2018

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DENTAL PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

The IDA supports the passage of the Dental Patient Protection Act, which is divided into two sections:

- *Uniform Coordination of Benefits:* The IDA believes that insurers should coordinate dental benefits when the patient has coverage from more than one policy. This would help ensure that dental patients receive the full insurance benefits for which they are paying.
- *Assignment of Dental Insurance Benefits:* The IDA believes that patients should be able to assign the insurance proceeds over to the care provider at the time the care is provided. This would avoid the situation where a non-custodial parent receives payment for care and doesn't turn the proceeds over to the custodial parent or the dentist. It would also ensure that the patient has the opportunity to choose his or her own dental care provider.

MEDICAID (TITLE XIX) PROGRAM

Approximately 84% of Iowa dentists provide Medicaid services to patients, compared to 38% of dentists nationally. However, the Medicaid reimbursement dentists receive is a fraction of what they receive for private pay patients, making it cost-prohibitive for dentists to provide care for new Medicaid patients. IDA believes the reimbursement rate should be increased to more accurately reflect the cost of providing the care.

With the Iowa Medicaid benefit administration reorganized from a state-administered activity to a private managed care organization (MCO) activity, it is essential that IDA leadership continue to focus its available resources to better ensure a positive experience for the member dentist and a positive outcome for their dental patients.

STUDENT LOANS

- *Deductibility:* The IDA supports legislation that would provide a state tax deduction for student loans.
- *Attract dentists to Iowa rural areas:* The IDA advocates for a state-funded forgivable Iowa student loan program designed to encourage dentist graduates to practice in Iowa rural communities.

CONFUSION ABOUT "ACCESS" TO DENTAL CARE

The IDA believes that the challenges to delivery of quality oral health care in Iowa do not actually stem from "access problems" but rather are a direct result of limited and significantly underfunded public programs.

INSURANCE CARRIER ENCROACHMENT

The IDA remains diligent in monitoring and resisting any attempt to modify or repeal any mandates that act in the best interests of dentists or their patients.

PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY

The IDA resists any attempt by special interest groups to have non-dentists perform any type of oral surgery or irreversible procedures, including the cutting of hard or soft tissue and extraction of any tooth.

PROVIDE THE IOWA DENTAL BOARD STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO OVERSEE DENTAL CLINICS NOT CURRENTLY REGULATED BY THE BOARD

The delivery of some oral health care in Iowa is undergoing a noticeable shift in clinic ownership and the completion of some clinic administrative activities by entities not currently regulated by the Board. Traditionally, the IDB effectively exercised its regulatory authority by way of licensure but, with this shift in structure, the Board has in some cases found itself unable to exercise effective oversight. This initiative provides the Board with additional oversight authority to address issues unique to this new clinic structure.



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