

## LEADERS AND CONTACTS OF THE IOWA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Dr. Tom Ludwig, President  
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Dr. Tom Peek, President-Elect  
Cedar Rapids

Dr. Richard Bokemper, Vice President  
Sergeant Bluff

Dr. Bruce Cochrane, Immediate Past President  
Fort Dodge

Dr. Heyo Tjarks, Speaker of the House  
Dubuque

Dr. James Larsen, Davenport District  
Davenport

Dr. Mike Hipp, Des Moines District  
Des Moines

Dr. Ryan Stuntz, Dubuque District  
Farley

Dr. Matthew Maggio, Fort Dodge District  
Fort Dodge

Dr. Nathan Hehr, North Central District  
Mason City

Dr. Shamayne Frank, Northwest District  
Sioux City

Dr. Martin Gleason, Southeast District  
Fairfield

Dr. Maria Fuller, Southwest District  
Corning

Dr. Shawn Hedlund, University District  
Iowa City

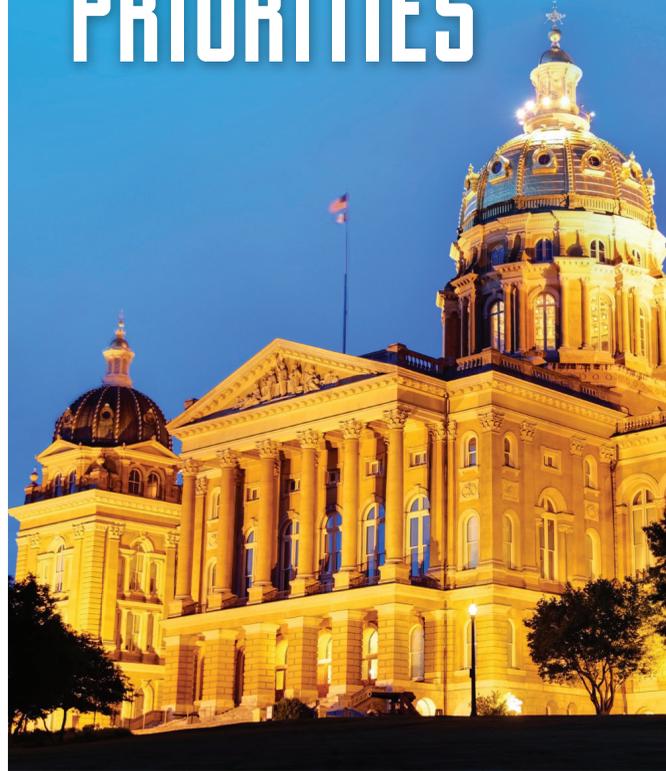
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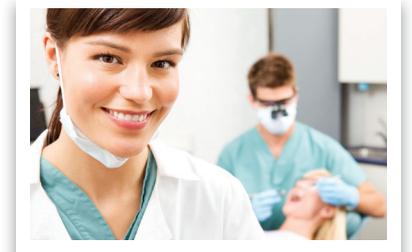
2016 IOWA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## 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, nearly 90 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

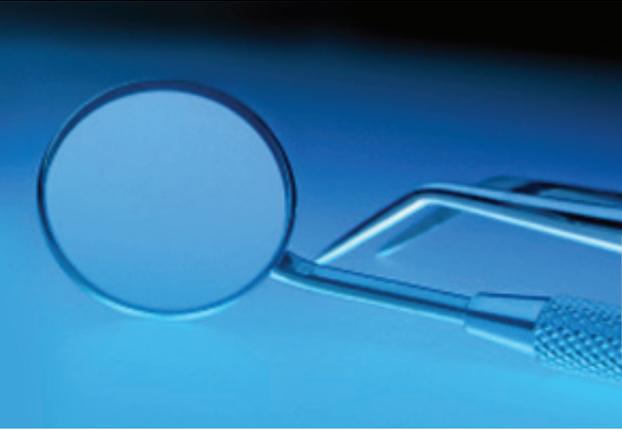
The mission of the Iowa Dental Association is to encourage the improvement of the health of the public, to promote the art and science of dentistry and to represent the interests of the members of the dental profession and the public that it serves.

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.



**2016**

IOWA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## PROVIDE THE IOWA DENTAL BOARD STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT TO 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 way of 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, at times, has 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.

## LOANS TO ATTRACT DENTISTS TO IOWA RURAL AREAS

Advocate for a state-funded forgivable Iowa student loan program designed to encourage dentist graduates to consider practicing in Iowa rural communities.

## THE DENTAL PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

Passing the Dental Patient Protection Act, a priority for the IDA, is divided into four sections:

- Establishing a patient directed "Assignment of Dental Insurance Benefits" protection
- Reinstating the denied claim "External Review" protections currently afforded to medical patients
- Establishing a patient's right to receive care from any dentist by way of the "Freedom of Choice" section
- Assuring a patient's right to full benefit coverage through a "Uniform Coordination of Benefits" statute

## THE CONFUSION ABOUT "ACCESS" TO DENTAL CARE

The IDA seeks to clarify 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.

## MEDICAID (TITLE XIX) PROGRAM

Advocate that Iowa Medicaid/Title XIX be properly funded to assure continued access to quality health care with a special emphasis on dental care.

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

## EXPANDED FUNCTIONS FOR DENTAL ASSISTANTS

Advocate for the expansion of Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) duties to include, among other activities, placement of sealants, the removal of supragingival plaque, stains, hard natural or synthetic material by any appropriate means.

## INSURANCE CARRIER ENCROACHMENT

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

## PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY

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



[www.iowadental.org](http://www.iowadental.org)