



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of
Commerce, Community and
Economic Development**

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
Board of Dental Examiners

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February 1, 2022

The Honorable Dan Ortiz
Alaska House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol, Room 513
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support Letter for HB 295 – Dentist Spec. License/Radiological Equip

Dear Representative Ortiz,

For reasons beyond its control, the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners (Board) has been unable to comply with AS 08.36.075, the statutory requirement to register and inspect the dental radiological equipment of our licensees. As a result, the Board formally requests the Department of Health and Social Services once again take over the function of registering and inspecting dental radiological equipment.

Additionally, the Board wishes to reinstate a specialty license. The main reason is to help reduce public confusion over deceptive or false advertising brought by dentists using the term “specialist” or “specializing in” to an area of dentistry that is professionally recognized to require significantly more training than they have received. Typically, a dental specialty residency demands at least an extra two-years of focused training beyond dental school.

HB 295 properly addresses our requests in both of these areas. Therefore, the Board of Dental Examiners offers its full support and is prepared to draft companion regulations.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Nielson".

David Nielson, DDS
President, Alaska Board of Dental Examiners