



January 26, 2022

Senator David Wilson  
State Capitol, Room 3  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support for dental legislation

Dear Senator Wilson,

The Alaska Dental Hygiene Association supports legislation that would transfer registration and inspection of X-ray units back to the Department of Health & Social Services and restore the dental specialty license that was eliminated in 2012.

The Alaska Dental Hygienists Association supports a safe dental work environment, which includes radiologic equipment inspections. The current system of radiologic inspections is problematic. The Alaska Board of Dental Examiners 2021 Annual Report states that x-ray inspections are not happening. The bill presented proposes a solution to the problem.

The elimination of the dental specialty license in 2012 resulted in the public being vulnerable to false advertising. The Alaska Dental Hygienists Association supports reinstating the dental specialty license.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lori Reetz, RDH, BSDH'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Reetz, RDH, BSDH

President, Alaska Dental Hygienists' Association



January 28, 2022

Senator Wilson  
State Capitol  
Room 121  
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Wilson:

The Alaska Dental Society supports SB173.

SB173 will transfer radiologic (x-ray) registration and inspection from the Dental Board to the Department of Health and Social Services. At one time there were private radiologic inspectors available for hire by private dentists but recent years have seen all of the approved inspectors either retire or move away. Consequently dentists in Alaska are unable to meet the current requirements for inspection of their x-ray equipment. The Department has qualified inspectors on staff and will be able to provide the necessary inspections to insure public safety.

SB173 will also reestablish the dental specialty license. This license was deleted in 2012 in the belief this would be part of a larger national trend. The trend did not materialize leaving Alaska as one of the few states without a specialty license. This has left the dental board without the statutory authority to regulate dental specialty advertising resulting in false and misleading advertising. Dentists are currently advertising as specialists not recognized by the specialty commission or advertising as specialists when they do not have the necessary training.

Sincerely,

*David Logan*

David Logan, DDS  
Executive Director, Alaska Dental Society



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

PO Box 110806  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806  
Main: 907.465.2250  
Fax: 907.465.2974

January 28, 2022

The Honorable David Wilson  
Chair, Senate Health & Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 121  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support Letter for SB 173 – Dentist Spec. License/Radiological Equip

Dear Chair Wilson,

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.

SB 173 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