

**HB**

**136**

**HFIN**

**FILE**



# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: HB136-COM-OL-03-24-07  
Bill Version: HB 136  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 3/24/2007

Dept. Affected: Commerce

Title Dental Hygienists

RDU Occupational Licensing (117)

Component Occupational Licensing

Sponsor Stoltze

Requester House Finance

Component No. 2360

## Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.
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## FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1156-Receipt Supported Services	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>TOTAL</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 00

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

## POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

## ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation amends AS 08.32 relating to Dental Hygienists to provide for a restorative function license endorsement, to amend supervision requirements, and to provide for collaborative agreements for certain dental hygienists to provide certain services.

Typically license endorsement fees are \$50 and do not include the costs of additional accredited programs requested or approved by the Alaska State Dental Board. There are over 500 licensed Dental Hygienist in the State. At this time the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing does not know how many licensees will request a restorative function endorsement and therefore, is unable to estimate costs and revenue.

All Occupational Licensing programs are required to cover costs with licensing fees under AS 08.01.065. Licensees requesting the endorsement will cover the additional fees.

Prepared by: Chris Wyatt, Administrative Manager  
Division: Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing

Phone: (907) 465-2572  
Date/Time: 3/24/07 2:57 PM

Approved by: Emil Notti, Commissioner  
Agency: Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Date: 3/24/2007

*adopted  
3/27/07*

25-LS0364\K  
Bullard  
3/26/07

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 136( )**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY**

**Offered:**

**Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES STOLTZE, Gardner**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to dental hygienists."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **\* Section 1. AS 08.32 is amended by adding a new section to read:**

4 **Sec. 08.32.085. Restorative function license endorsement.** (a) The board  
5 shall issue a restorative function endorsement to a dental hygienist who is licensed  
6 under this chapter if the licensee furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that the  
7 licensee has

8 (1) successfully completed a program accredited by the Commission  
9 on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or other course of  
10 instruction approved by the board; and

11 (2) passed the Western Regional Examining Board's restorative  
12 examination or other equivalent examination approved by the board within the five  
13 years preceding the licensee's endorsement application, or the licensee is licensed in  
14 another state or United States territory to perform restorative functions.

15 (b) An endorsement issued under this section authorizes a licensed dental

1           hygienist under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist to place restorations into a  
2           cavity prepared by the licensed dentist and thereafter carve, contour, and adjust  
3           contacts and occlusion of the restoration.

4           (c) The board may by regulation establish renewal and continuing education  
5           requirements for an endorsement under this section.

6       \* Sec. 2. AS 08.32.110(a) is amended to read:

7           (a) The role of the dental hygienist is to assist members of the dental  
8           profession in providing oral health care to the public. A person licensed to practice the  
9           profession of dental hygiene in the state may

10           (1) remove calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from the  
11           exposed surfaces of the teeth beginning at the epithelial attachment by scaling and  
12           polishing techniques;

13           (2) apply topical preventive agents;

14           (3) apply pit and fissure sealants;

15           (4) perform root planning and periodontal soft tissue curettage;

16           (5) perform other dental operations and services delegated by a  
17           licensed dentist if the dental operations and services are not prohibited by (c) of this  
18           section; and

19           (6) if certified by the board and under the direct, [OR] indirect, or  
20           general supervision of a licensed dentist, administer local anesthetic agents.

21       \* Sec. 3. AS 08.32.110 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

22           (e) This section does not prohibit a dental hygienist

23           (1) with an endorsement issued under AS 08.32.085 from performing  
24           the activities authorized under AS 08.32.085; or

25           (2) who has entered into a collaborative agreement approved by the  
26           board under AS 08.32.115 from performing the activities authorized under the  
27           collaborative agreement.

28       Sec. 4. AS 08.32 is amended by adding a new section to read:

29           **Sec. 08.32.115. Collaborative agreements.** (a) If the collaborative agreement  
30           is approved by the board under (d) of this section, a dental hygienist with a minimum  
31           of 4,000 documented hours of clinical experience within the five years preceding

1 application for the board's approval may enter into a collaborative agreement with a  
2 dentist licensed under AS 08.36 in which the licensed dentist authorizes the dental  
3 hygienist to perform one or more of the following:

- 4 (1) oral health promotion and disease prevention education;
- 5 (2) removal of calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from the  
6 surfaces of teeth;
- 7 (3) application of topical preventive or prophylactic agents, including  
8 fluoride varnishes and pit and fissure sealants;
- 9 (4) polishing and smoothing restorations;
- 10 (5) removal of marginal overhangs;
- 11 (6) preliminary charting and triage;
- 12 (7) radiographs;
- 13 (8) use of local periodontal therapeutic agents; and
- 14 (9) performance of nonsurgical periodontal therapy, with or without  
15 the administration of local anesthesia, subsequent to a licensed dentist's authorization  
16 or diagnosis as specified in the licensed hygienist's collaborative agreement.

17 (b) The services described in (a) of this section may be performed under a  
18 collaborative agreement approved by the board

- 19 (1) without the presence of the licensed dentist;
- 20 (2) in a setting other than the usual place of practice of the licensed  
21 dentist; and
- 22 (3) without the dentist's diagnosis and treatment plan unless otherwise  
23 specified in the collaborative agreement or in (a) of this section.

24 (c) The board shall adopt regulations regarding approval of collaborative  
25 agreements between licensed dental hygienists and licensed dentists.

26 (d) The board may approve a collaborative agreement between a licensed  
27 dentist and a dental hygienist. However, the board may not approve more than five  
28 collaborative agreements with a licensed dentist, not including any collaborative  
29 agreements that have been terminated. A dental hygienist shall notify the board of the  
30 termination of a collaborative agreement with a licensed dentist.

31 \* Sec. 5. AS 08.32.140 is amended to read:

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2  
3  
4  
5

Sec. 08.32.140. Supervision required. A dental hygienist, other than a dental hygienist practicing according to a collaborative agreement approved under AS 08.32.115, may not practice except under the general supervision of a licensed dentist or, if required by regulations adopted under AS 08.32.110(b), the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed dentist.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Vice Chair:*  
House Finance Committee

*Chair:*  
House Finance Subcommittees for:  
Department of Public Safety  
Department of Law



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**BILL STOLTZE**

**State Representative**

Representative\_Bill\_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us

## House Bill 136

### Dental Hygienists

*"An Act relating to dental hygienists."*

Good oral health is essential to improving overall health and well being. However, many factors exacerbate the oral health disparity across Alaska's population, including the current structure of the oral healthcare delivery system, geographic and educational barriers, and the cost of care.

Dental Hygienists are licensed oral care health professionals who focus on preventing and treating oral diseases. They have graduated from nationally accredited dental hygiene education programs in colleges and universities, and have successfully passed a national written and state clinical examination. Given their comprehensive education and clinical preparation, dental hygienists are well prepared to deliver preventative oral health care services to the public, safely and effectively.

The provisions of House Bill 136 follow the expanded functions of dental hygienists in other states to improve access to preventative oral health care. Specifically, HB 136:

1. Allows a licensed dental hygienist to place "fillings" into a cavity prepared by a licensed dentist.
2. Authorizes a licensed dental hygienist to administer local anesthetic agents under the general supervision of a licensed dentist.
3. Permits a licensed dental hygienist to enter into a collaborative agreement with a licensed dentist in which the dentist authorizes the dental hygienist to perform certain duties stipulated under HB 136 without the supervision of the dentist.

I ask for your consideration and support of HB 136 to help improve access to oral health care in Alaska.

DISTRICT 16

BIRCHWOOD • BUTTE • CHUGIAK • EKLUTNA • FAIRVIEW LOOP  
KNIE RIVER ROAD • LAZY MOUNTAIN • PALMER • PETERS CREEK



March 27, 2007

The Honorable Mike Chenault, Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 505  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 515  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

HB 136 (Stoltze)—Support

Dear Co-Chairs Chenault and Meyer:

On behalf of the AARP members in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the House Finance Committee to support HB 136, authored by your Committee Vice-Chair Bill Stoltze.

As you and your Committee colleagues know, Alaska has a shortage of all health professionals, particularly in our remote communities. We will never be able to find a sufficient number of physicians but we use physician assistants and nurse practitioners very effectively. We will never have enough dentists and Alaska uses dental hygienists effectively. We could use them even more effectively and HB 136 would help us accomplish this.

Dental hygienists are not independent practitioners. They work under licensed dentists and focus on preventing and treating oral diseases. HB 136 does not break new ground for their scope of practice. Other states already allow dental hygienists to:

- Place fillings into a cavity already prepared by a dentist
- Administer a local anesthetic under the general supervision of a dentist
- Enter into an agreement with a dentist in which the dentist authorizes the hygienist to work on specified tasks

We recognize that any change in a scope of practice may make other professionals concerned. We want to make certain that all Alaskans have access to high quality, affordable health care, including oral health.

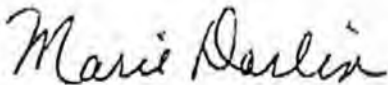
Many oral health problems can be prevented or treated by professional dental hygienists and this care may turn out to be less expensive and more accessible. Our dental costs are high. Dental procedures in Alaska cost 37.7% more than in the rest of the United States. We believe HB 136 will help reduce those costs as well as improve accessibility. Since all of these issues are under the supervision of a dentist or by agreement with a dentist, we also do not believe quality will suffer. Indeed, it may very well improve significantly since hygienists will serve as a "force multiplier" for the dentists we do have.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on HB 136.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marie Darlin, Coordinator  
AARP Capital City Task Force  
415 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 506  
Juneau, AK 99801  
586-3637 (voice)  
463-3580 (fax)

CC: Vice-Chair Bill Stoltze  
Representative Richard Foster  
Representative Mike Hawker  
Representative Bill Thomas  
Representative Harry Crawford  
Representative Les Gara  
Representative Reggie Joulé  
Representative Mike Kelly  
Representative Mary Nelson



**Alaska Dental Society, Inc.**

9170 Jewel Lake Road, Suite 203  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502-5390  
(907) 563-3003 • FAX: 563-3009  
akdental@alaska.net

27 March 2007

Rep. Chenault & Rep. Meyer, Co-Chairmen  
And Members, House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Gentlemen & Committee Members:

Educating rural Alaskans about proper oral hygiene and diet, combined with access to dental care in underserved areas is one of the greatest challenges facing dentistry in the twenty first century and is even more crucial in Alaska. The Alaska Dental Society is committed to finding solutions to this complex problem. Increased use of dental auxiliaries, including broadening the scope of duties of all dental auxiliaries will be an important part of the solution. The Alaska Dental Society has worked for the past two legislative sessions promoting bills that broaden the scope of duties for dental auxiliaries.

The fast pace of committee hearings this session has created difficulty in allowing for discussions between the Alaska State Dental Hygiene Association and our society. However, it is our understanding that the leadership of the Hygiene Association is agreeable to making amendments to this bill which protect the public.

The ADS would support an amendment offering the attached language, which provides the necessary public protection. We ask for your assistance in amending this bill to reflect what has been mutually agreed upon.

Respectfully yours,

James R. Towle  
Executive Director

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Vice Chair:*  
House Finance Committee

*Chair:*  
House Finance Subcommittees for;  
Department of Public Safety  
Department of Law



*Session:*  
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**BILL STOLTZE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
Representative\_Bill\_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us

## House Bill 136 (Version M) Sectional Analysis

**Section 1** authorizes the Board of Dental Examiners to issue a restorative function endorsement to a licensed dental hygienist if the hygienist has successfully completed an accredited program and has passed the required restorative function examination(s).

A restorative function endorsement will allow a licensed dental hygienist to place restorations, i.e. fillings, into a cavity prepared by a licensed dentist and thereafter carve, contour and adjust contacts and occlusion of the restoration under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

**Section 2** authorizes a licensed dental hygienist to administer local anesthetic agents under the general supervision of a licensed dentist.

Local anesthesia renders a small part of the body, such as a tooth, insensitive to pain without affecting consciousness. Licensed dental hygienists in the state who are certified by the Board have been administering local anesthesia under "direct" or "indirect" supervision of a licensed dentist since 1981. Adding "general" supervision would allow a licensed, Board-certified dental hygienist to administer local anesthetic agents without the requirement for a licensed dentist being present in the dental facility.

**Section 3** includes under dental hygienists' scope of practice the ability to place restorations (section 1) and perform the activities authorized under a collaborative agreement with a licensed dentist (section 4).

**Section 4** authorizes the Board to approve a collaborative agreement between a licensed dentist and a licensed dental hygienist and specifies services and procedures allowed under a collaborative agreement.

Working under a collaborative agreement with a licensed dentist, a dental hygienist would be able to initiate treatment within their scope of practice based on his or her assessment of a patient's needs without the specific authorization of a dentist.

**Section 5** applies supervision requirements to a dental hygienist operating in conjunction with a licensed dentist under a collaborative agreement.

DISTRICT 16

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KNIK RIVER ROAD • LAZY MOUNTAIN • PALMER • PETERS CREEK

## House Bill 136 – “An act relating to dental hygienists”

### ie Problem

- Preventable oral diseases can cause life threatening emergencies.
- Many Alaskans cannot afford oral healthcare.
- There are geographic and educational barriers preventing access to oral health care.
- The structure of Alaska’s current oral healthcare delivery system contains barriers that prevent access to oral health care.

### Dental Hygienists Can Help

Dental hygienists are well-prepared to deliver preventative oral health care services to the public safely and effectively.

- Dental hygienists focus on preventing and treating oral diseases.
- Dental hygienists graduate from nationally accredited dental hygiene education programs in universities, and must pass a national written and state clinical examination in order to practice. Dental hygienists are state-licensed oral healthcare professionals.
- Dental hygienists are key to cost-effective early intervention and education.

### Provisions under HB 136

#### 1. Anesthesia under *general* supervision

Allows a licensed dental hygienist to perform local anesthesia under general supervision. A licensed dentist would still be required to diagnose the condition to be treated prior to the hygienist performing treatment.

#### 2. Expanded restorative function

Allows a licensed dental hygienist to place “fillings” into a cavity prepared by a licensed dentist.

#### 3. Collaborative agreement

Allows a licensed dental hygienist to enter into a written agreement with a licensed dentist who would authorize the services to be performed by the dental hygienist without the supervision of the dentist.

## HB 136 – “An act relating to Dental Hygienists”

### Fact Sheet: Local Anesthesia

<p><b>What is Local Anesthesia?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Anesthesia renders a small part of the body, such as a tooth, insensitive to pain without affecting consciousness. It reduces stress and allows a client to be comfortable while being treated by a hygienist for moderate to advanced gum disease.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Statute Change</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AS 08.32.110(a) is amended to read: ...  (6) if certified by the board and under the direct, [OR] indirect, <u>or general</u> supervision of a licensed dentist, administer local anesthetic agents.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“<b>Direct supervision</b>” means the dentist is in the dental office, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedure, and before dismissal of the patient evaluates the performance of the dental hygienist.</li> <li>“<b>Indirect supervision</b>” means a licensed dentist is in the dental facility, authorizes the procedures, and remains in the dental facility while the procedures are being performed by the dental hygienist</li> <li>“<b>General supervision</b>” means the dentist has authorized the procedures and they are being carried out in accordance with the dentist's diagnosis and treatment plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dental Hygienists Can Help</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Education</b> – The dental hygiene curriculum is established and competency requirements are enforced by the American Dental Association. Numerous hours of didactic and clinical experience, as well as written and clinical testing are required before a dental hygienist is licensed to administer local anesthetic agents. Additionally, in Alaska, a separate written and clinical exam administered by WREB, a National Dental and Dental Hygiene testing agency, is required prior to obtaining a license for administering local anesthesia.</li> <li><b>25 years of experience</b> – Dental hygienists in Alaska have been delivering local anesthesia under direct or indirect supervision since July 20, 1981.</li> <li><b>Record of safety</b> – An Alaskan dental hygienist has <u>never</u> had disciplinary action taken against his/her license due to the administration of local anesthesia under the current statutes.</li> <li><b>Liability insurance</b> – A dental hygienist's liability insurance cost is the same whether they have a license to deliver local anesthesia or not. Therefore, it can be assumed that insurance companies do not see local anesthesia as an increased risk.</li> <li><b>Emergency training</b> – Dental hygienists are required to maintain current CPR certification and are capable of responding appropriately in emergency situations.</li> <li><b>Dentist discretion</b> – The administration of local anesthesia under general supervision remains at the discretion of the supervising dentist (i.e. a dentist's authorization would still be required)</li> <li><b>Other states</b> – The states of <i>Idaho</i> and <i>Oregon</i> allow local anesthesia under General Supervision. There have been no disciplinary cases against a dental hygienist as related to the administration of local anesthesia.</li> </ul>

## Number of Dentists and Dental Hygienists by Region

Region	Population	No. of Dentists	No. of Hygienists	No. of Hyg/Den	No. of Hyg/10,000
New England			13,118	1.4	9.4
Middle Atlantic			25,976	0.9	6.6
East North Central			31,851	1.3	7.1
West North Central			9,481	1	4.9
South Atlantic			27,484	1.1	5.3
East South Central			7,998	1.1	4.7
West South Central			12,297	0.9	3.9
Mountain			10,422	1.2	5.7
Pacific			31,149	1.1	6.9
<b>U.S. Total</b>			<b>169,149</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>663,661</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>7.47</b>
<b>Anchorage Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>352,282</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>7.66</b>
Anchorage Municipality	278,241	197	216	1.1	7.76
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	74,041	29	54	1.9	7.29
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>74,904</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>5.61</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	51,224	27	29	1.1	5.66
Kodiak Island Borough	13,638	7	9	1.3	6.60
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	10,042	3	4	1.3	3.98
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>102,005</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>4.41</b>
Denali Borough	1,823	0	0	-	-
Fairbanks North Star Borough	87,650	47	45	1.0	5.13
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	6,471	3	0	-	-
Yukon Koyukuk Census Area	6,061	0	0	-	-
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>23,669</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.84</b>
Nome Census Area	9,452	5	1	0.2	1.06
North Slope Borough	6,894	2	1	0.5	1.45
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,323	1	0	-	-
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>70,822</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>6.78</b>
Haines Borough	2,207	1	2	2.0	9.06
Juneau City and Borough	31,193	22	26	1.2	8.34
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,125	7	9	1.3	6.86
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	5,497	1	2	2.0	3.64
Sitka City and Borough	8,947	6	5	0.8	5.59
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon C.A.	3,062	0	0	-	-
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	6,172	4	4	1.0	6.48
Yakutat City and Borough	619	0	0	-	-
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>39,979</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.25</b>
Aleutians East Borough	2,659	0	0	-	-
Aleutians West Census Area	5,249	2	1	0.5	1.91
Bethel Census Area	17,085	0	0	0.2	1.17
Bristol Bay Borough	1,073	0	0	-	-
Dillingham Census Area	4,792	0	0	-	-
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,620	0	0	-	-
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,551	0	0	-	-
<b>Out-of State</b>		<b>122</b>	<b>84</b>		

Source: National data calculated using ICR, 2000 and U.S. Census Bureau

Source: State population data from ADOL&WD, 2005

Source: Dentist/Hygienist data from AK Div of Occupational Licensing, Jan 2007



STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMERCE**  
COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Sarah Palin, Governor*  
*Emil Notti, Commissioner*  
*Rick Urion, Director*

Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

March 6, 2007

The Honorable Peggy Wilson, Chair  
Health, Education and Social Services Committee  
House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Wilson:

RE: HB 136

The Board of Dental Examiners is in support of HB 136, "An Act relating to dental hygienists".

This legislation will be beneficial in providing more dental services to the citizens of the State of Alaska.

Please contact me at (907) 561-6262 or by email at [geracedds@gei.net](mailto:geracedds@gei.net) if you have questions regarding our support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "William Gerace". To the right of the signature is a circular stamp containing the initials "W.G.".

William Gerace, DDS, Acting-Chair  
Alaska Board of Dental Examiners



February 26, 2007

Representative Bill Stoltze  
State Capitol, Room 501  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Stoltze:

The Alaska State Dental Hygienists' Association (ASDHA) strongly supports House Bill 136 which represents many years of discussion, debate, research and reflection upon the oral health needs of Alaskans. As dental hygienists, we are a community of professionals devoted to the prevention of disease and the promotion and improvement of the public's health. We are preventive oral health professionals who provide education, clinical, and therapeutic services to the public.

In Alaska, the Board of Dental Examiners regulates the professions of dentistry and dental hygiene. Before a license is issued in the state, dentists and hygienists are required to meet specific guidelines. Dental hygienists must graduate from an American Dental Association accredited program and pass a national written and state clinical examination before they are allowed to practice. There are dental hygiene programs in nearly every state and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics states that the profession of dental hygiene is expected to be one of the fastest growing occupations through the year 2012. In comparison, the number of dentists that graduate each year continues to decline as the population continues to grow. The needs of the public cannot be met by dentists alone.

Currently, there are legal barriers that prevent dental hygienists from providing oral health care to the public. State law and regulation limit access by imposing restrictive supervision requirements on dental hygienists. By virtue of our comprehensive education and clinical preparation, dental hygienists are well prepared to deliver preventive oral health care services to the public, safely and effectively, independent of dental supervision. The nation's more progressive states, such as Minnesota and Washington, which have already expanded the role of dental hygienists, have recognized that the traditional oral health delivery system does not work for many segments of the population.

ASDHA supports the statutory changes in HB 136 as it will help address access to oral health care in all Alaskan communities; most notably, in areas with little or no access to traditional dental services. Each statute change shows a continued professional commitment to working collaboratively with dentists in order to meet the needs of the public, and provide these services in a safe and effective manner.

A landmark report by the Surgeon General in 2000, *Oral Health in America*, highlighted the barriers to oral health and the importance and effectiveness of prevention. Most importantly, it calls upon "policymakers, community leaders, private industry, health professionals, the media, and the public" to take action and make necessary changes that will improve the oral health of the nation. ASDHA strongly encourages the Alaska Legislature to help break down the barriers keeping Alaskans from the oral health they deserve.

Thank you,

*Ivonne Millea, RDH*

Ivonne Millea  
ASDHA President

# Southcentral Foundation

Date: February 22, 2007

From: Kevin Gottlieb, Chief of Staff

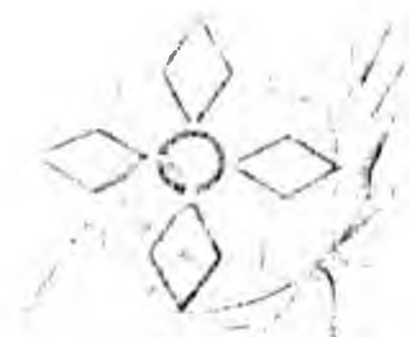
RE: House Bill No. 136

Dear Representative Bill Stoltze

Southcentral Foundation would like to state our support for the passage of changing the Statutes for Dental Hygienists in Alaska. These changes allow for local anesthesia under general supervision, restorative functions, and collaborative practice with a dentist. This expanded utilization of a licensed dental hygienist will help to address the inadequacy of access to dental care in Alaska.

It has been documented that Alaska is a State in need of increased access to dental services, especially in the rural areas. These expanded functions would increase the number of people that could be treated while working with a dentist. The collaborative agreement statute would provide increased access to care not only for rural areas but also for individuals in nursing homes, home bound disabled patients and low-income school programs. These individuals whether urban or rural have significant oral health needs and lack easy access to dental care.

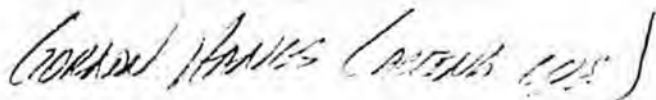
The U.S. Surgeon General in May of 2000 made a landmark call to action upon *"policymakers, community leaders, private industry, health professionals, the media, and the public to affirm that oral health is essential to general health and well-being and to take action."* Furthermore, in the Surgeon General's Report: Oral Health in America, it was reported that no less that a *"silent epidemic of oral diseases is affecting our most vulnerable citizens"* and that *"no one should suffer from oral diseases or conditions that can be effectively prevented and treated."*



Southcentral Foundation is confident that expanding the scope of practice for dental hygienists will result in improved access to care and improved overall health for Alaskans. These expanded functions are practiced in several other States throughout the country. Dental hygienists are licensed preventive oral health professionals. They have the capability and educational background to provide these services to the public in a safe and effective manner. Please support HB 136.

Sincerely,

SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kevin Gottlieb", enclosed in a large, hand-drawn parentheses.

Kevin Gottlieb  
Chief of Staff

To: Members of House Labor and Commerce Committee:

Re: HB 136 (Change in Statutes for Dental Hygienists)

I am writing to state strong support for this bill in its original form. These statute changes would allow more dental preventive and therapeutic care to be delivered to underserved groups with NO detrimental effect on quality of care. Dental hygienists have the formal education in programs accredited by the American Dental Association's Council, must pass written national board exams, and must prove competency on an independently administered clinical exam in order to practice in all states and territories of the US. The education is generally two years of college prerequisites and then two full academic years integrated with clinical instruction. For all accredited programs, the faculties are subject to standards and qualifications and the programs are reevaluated at regular intervals. I have served in the past as the state Board of Dental Examiners representative on the site accreditation visit and it was a much more extensive process than one could ever imagine!

The legislation proposing expanding the setting in which local anesthetic is administered was first proposed by Dr David Logan when he was president of the Board of Dental Examiners and I was serving on the board. Dental hygienists have been successfully administering it for 25-30 years in this state, there have been NO malpractice issues or board complaints, and it just makes sense that when a patient of record in the office has an appointment and the dentist leaves, the patient should not have to be rescheduled! The hygienist is in the employ of the dentist and he/she can still request that particular patients not be injected if there is a perceived health concern or if the dentist is less than comfortable with a particular hygienist doing the procedure. The dentist is in control of this situation.

The legislation proposing collaborative practice addresses the critical shortage in preventive health care available to many sectors of the population, providing an avenue for a hygienist to do basic functions that all hygienists currently perform in an expanded setting. I am in firm agreement with requiring a hygienist to have 4000 hours of documented clinical experience and will be an advocate of further regulations which need to be written for the statute. Several states have this option. The restorative functions proposed are truly an expansion of what hygienists do in Alaska, but is modeled after the system used in Washington State for about three decades. This allows a dentist and hygienist to team up to provide more care. The educational requirements for the endorsement on a dental hygiene license would be spelled out in regulation and the hygienist would be required to pass clinical competency boards as well.

In summation, the proposed changes improve health care delivery to the residents of the state, maintain stringent educational standards, assure competency by requiring clinical examination, and mandate accountability—direct supervision when doing restorative functions, general supervision by the dentist for local anesthetic administration, and authorization by the dentist for treatment of patients outside of a traditional office with the express approval of each agreement by the Board of Dental Examiners.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Cerney, RDH, BS  
1420 Ithaca Rd.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

**Ben Mulligan**

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**From:** Brewer, Thomas [tbrewer@SouthcentralFoundation.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2007 4:41 PM  
**To:** Rep. Bill Stoltze  
**Subject:** Support for House Bill #136

Date: 16 March 2007

From: Thomas B. Brewer DDS MS  
24327 Thunderbird Dr.  
Chugiak, AK 99567  
tombrewer@gci.net  
688-5580

RE: House Bill No. 136

Dear Representative Stoltze,

I would like to state my support for the passage of House Bill No. 136, changing the Statutes for Dental Hygienists in Alaska. These changes allow for local anesthesia under general supervision, restorative functions, and collaborative practice with a dentist. This expanded utilization of a licensed dental hygienist will help to address the inadequacy of access to dental care in Alaska.

It has been documented that Alaska is a state in need of increased access to dental services, especially in the rural areas. You might have noticed the article on our state's National Guard troops difficulty in achieving deployability status due to unmet dental needs in this week's Eagle River Star newspaper. Expanding the allowable functions for dental hygienists would increase the number of people that could receive treatment. The collaborative agreement statute would provide increased access to care not only for rural areas, but also for individuals in nursing homes, home bound disabled patients and low-income school programs. These individuals whether urban or rural have significant oral health needs and lack easy access to dental care.

The U.S. Surgeon General, in May of 2000, made a landmark call to action upon "*policymakers, community leaders, private industry, health professionals, the media, and the public to affirm that oral health is essential to general health and well-being and to take action.*" Furthermore, in the Surgeon General's Report: Oral Health in America, it was reported that no less that a "*silent epidemic of oral diseases is affecting our most vulnerable citizens*" and that "*no one should suffer from oral diseases or conditions that can be effectively prevented and treated.*"

I am confident that expanding the scope of practice for dental hygienists will result in improved access to care and improved overall health for Alaskans. These expanded functions are practiced in several other States throughout the country. Dental hygienists are licensed preventive oral health professionals. They have the capability and educational background to provide these services to the public in a safe and effective manner. Please support HB 136.

Sincerely, Tom Brewer

**Ben Mulligan**

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From: Dorrie Wallis [dwallis@svt.org]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2007 9:52 AM  
To: Rep. Bill Stoltze  
Subject: \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* HB 136

Dear Rep. Stoltze:

Thank you for sponsoring HB 136. I am a practicing dental hygienist with 14 yrs experience in Alaska providing treatment in many "Bush" communities. Alaska has over 400 hygienist, who are considered mid-level practitioners - if the Bill is approved, our profession can have a significant impact on improving the oral health of those most in need. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in assisting you or your staff.

Thank you,  
Dorrie Wallis, RDH  
Homer, AK  
(907)235-0626(h)  
(907)399-3991(c)

March 3, 2007

*you are hearing this  
Bill in HESS  
tomorrow*

Representative Peggy Wilson  
State Capitol, Room 403  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Wilson, *Sitka*

My name is Rebecca Bender and I am a licensed dental hygienist from your district. I am writing to ask you to support House Bill 136 sponsored by Representative Bill Stoltze. This legislation would enable properly qualified and licensed dental hygienists to provide local anesthesia under general supervision, attain licensure to provide restorative services, and provide dental hygiene services under a collaborative agreement with a dentist approved by the Board of Dental Examiners.

Dental hygienists are licensed in the state of Alaska after graduating from an American Dental Association accredited dental hygiene college program and passing written, clinical and jurisprudence examinations. We are preventive oral health professionals who provide a wide range of services and treat one of the most common oral diseases—gum disease. We also provide treatments like fluorides and sealants to prevent tooth decay. We have the skill and educational background to provide these services to the public.

Dental hygienists in the state of Alaska have been providing pain control with local anesthesia since 1981 in a safe and effective manner. Dental hygienists frequently use local anesthesia when they perform deep scaling treatments (root planing) and gingival curettage, services for the treatment of gum disease. While most dental hygiene services can be provided under general supervision (meaning the dentist has authorized a hygienist to perform procedures but need not be present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures), a dentist must currently be present in the facility in order for a hygienist to provide local anesthesia. This limits dental hygienists from providing patients the comfort and stress reduction needed for root planing.

This bill also established a dental hygiene Restorative Function License Endorsement which would allow a dental hygienist who has successfully completed a restorative program and passed a clinical examination to work with a dentist under direct supervision to place, carve, contour, and adjust a restoration for teeth prepared by the dentist. If the dentist can begin the restoration of a tooth and delegate completion to a licensed dental hygienist, many more patients could be treated each day.

The final proposed change would create the option for dentists and dental hygienists to practice collaboratively according to a Board approved written Collaborative Agreement between them that authorizes the dental hygienist to perform specified services as outline in the agreement. Hygienists would be able to then provide services in nursing homes, schools, and rural communities that lack access to these services. Currently under state law a dentist has to see the client prior to each treatment series, effectively preventing many people who are unable to visit the private office from obtaining even the most routine preventive care like fluorides and cleanings.

House Bill 136 is one step forward in addressing the oral health disparities in Alaskan communities. As a dental hygienist from your district, I ask for your support of HB 136. Please let me know if you would like additional information about oral health, dental hygiene services or barriers to oral health care and I will arrange to have it provided.

Sincerely,  
*Rebecca Bender*



March 19, 2007

The Honorable Kurt Olson, Chair  
House Labor and Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 408  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

HB 136 (Stoltze)—Support

Dear Chair Olson:

On behalf of the AARP members in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the House Labor and Commerce Committee to support HB 136, authored by Representative Bill Stoltze.

As you and your Committee colleagues know, Alaska has a shortage of all health professionals, particularly in our remote communities. We will never be able to find a sufficient number of physicians but we use physician assistants and nurse practitioners very effectively. We will never have enough dentists and Alaska uses dental hygienists effectively. We could use them even more effectively and HB 136 would help us accomplish this.

Dental hygienists are not independent practitioners. They work under licensed dentists and focus on preventing and treating oral diseases. HB 136 does not break new ground for their scope of practice. Other states already allow dental hygienists to:

- Place fillings into a cavity already prepared by a dentist
- Administer a local anesthetic under the general supervision of a dentist
- Enter into an agreement with a dentist in which the dentist authorizes the hygienist to work on specified tasks

We recognize that any change in a scope of practice may make other professionals concerned. We want to make certain that all Alaskans have access to high quality, affordable health care, including oral health.

Many oral health problems can be prevented or treated by professional dental hygienists and this care may turn out to be less expensive and more accessible. Our dental costs are high. Dental procedures in Alaska cost 37.7% more than in the rest of the United States. We believe HB 136 will help reduce those costs as well as improve accessibility. Since all of these issues are under the supervision of a dentist or by agreement with a dentist, we also do not believe quality will suffer. Indeed, it may very well improve significantly since hygienists will serve as a "force multiplier" for the dentists we do have.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on HB 136.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marie Darlin, Coordinator  
AARP Capital City Task Force  
415 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 506  
Juneau, AK 99801  
586-3637 (voice)  
463-3580 (fax)

CC: Vice-Chair Mark Neuman  
Representative Carl Gatto  
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux  
Representative Jay Ramras  
Representative Bob Buch  
Representative Berta Gardner  
Representative Bill Stoltze