

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 1989-1990 8672

6388 SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE

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STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

AUDIT DIVISION
P.O. BOX W
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-3300

December 31, 1987

Members of the Legislative Budget
and Audit Committee:

According to the provisions of Titles 24 and 44 of the Alaska Statutes, the Division of Legislative Audit is required to conduct a "Sunset" review of the Board of Dental Examiners.

At the request of the Chairman, during Fiscal Year 1988 budget deliberations, the Audit Division's budget was revised to reflect certain changes in the organization of the Committee's two Divisions. The revised budget of the Audit Division reflected efficiencies that might be obtained by utilizing the staff of the Legislative Finance Division on selected audit assignments during the interim.

As a result, the audit of the Board of Dental Examiners was conducted and this report has been prepared by the Legislative Finance Division. We feel this report discharges our responsibility under Titles 24 and 44. The report is submitted for your review.



Randy S. Welker, CPA
Acting Legislative Auditor
Division of Legislative Audit

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

FINANCE DIVISION
POUCH WF-STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: (907) 466-3795

November 5, 1987

Members of the Legislative Budget
and Audit Committee:

In accordance with the provisions of Titles 24 and 44 of the
Alaska Statutes (sunset legislation), the attached report is
submitted for your review.

A PERFORMANCE REPORT
ON THE BOARD OF
DENTAL EXAMINERS

July 1, 1985 - June 30, 1987

Audit Control Number

08-1316-88-R

NGREANY

Mike Greany, Director
Division of Legislative Finance

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PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE REPORT

In accordance with the intent of Titles 24 and 44 of the Alaska Statutes (sunset legislation), we have reviewed the activities of the Board of Dental Examiners to determine if the Board has been operating in an efficient and effective manner.

As required by legislative intent, this report shall be considered during the legislative oversight function in determining whether the Board of Dental Examiners should be reestablished. The law currently specifies that this Board will terminate on June 30, 1988, but will continue until June 30, 1989 for the purpose of concluding its affairs.

The major areas of our examination were the licensing, examination, administration, complaint, and affirmative action functions of the Board. We reviewed and evaluated the following:

1. Applicable statutes and regulations.
2. Tests of files and documents of licensees.
3. Interviews with the licensing examiner.
4. Complaints filed with the Division of Occupational Licensing, Equal Employment Opportunity Office, Attorney General's Office, and the Ombudsman Office.
5. Discussions with Board members.
6. Minutes of Board meetings and Division correspondence files.
7. Attorney General's Opinions applicable to professional boards.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

The Board of Dental Examiners was created in 1955. The Board consists of nine persons: six licensed dentists, two dental hygienists, and one public member, which are appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation of the Legislature. Board members serve terms of four years.

The Board is organized under the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Occupational Licensing (DOL). Administrative functions of the Board are provided by DOL, such as processing applications, maintaining licensing files, answering inquiries, and providing investigative support.

The primary function of the Board is to ensure a minimum quality of dental care to Alaskans by licensing qualified applicants and establishing regulations necessary to enforce statutes. The Board regulates dentists, dental specialists, and dental hygienists who perform services in the State.

The responsibility and authority for evaluating the competence of candidates for dental licensure are vested in the Board. Previous to January 1987, candidates had to pass a state administered clinical and written examination to assess a candidate's competency. The Board now accepts the results of the Western Regional Examining Board's clinical and written examination for general dentistry and dental hygienists. Dental hygienists who are licensed in another State and who possess minimum work experience can be licensed through credentials.

Although dental specialists are not required to take an examination, they must be licensed dentists in Alaska and may be required to have completed additional years of education in their specialty area.

REPORT CONCLUSION

Policy Issues

This report contains policy issues raised as a result of our evaluation of various Board practices. The final policy decisions affecting these practices are not within the scope of this report but require legislative consideration. In debating these issues, the oversight committees should take into consideration the findings and recommendations presented in this report so the potential impact of policy changes can be evaluated.

Report Conclusion

In our opinion, the Board of Dental Examiners should be reestablished. The regulation and licensing of qualified professionals is necessary to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. The Board provides this service by establishing minimum educational and experience requirements that provide reasonable assurance that persons licensed are qualified. Also, assurances that those licensed act in a competent manner is provided by active investigation of complaints and revocation or suspension of licenses when appropriate.

The following findings describe areas where weaknesses or conflicts exist. We have made recommendations which, if implemented, will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Board.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 1

The Board should allow for licensure by credentials for dentists and dental specialists.

Alaska Statute 08.36.234 allows but does not mandate the Board to approve dental licenses to applicants with valid dental licenses in other states by reviewing their credentials instead of requiring the applicant to pass a written and clinical examination. In 1984, the Board issued an emergency regulation 12 AAC 28.950, which suspended licensure by credentials after concern was expressed by the Attorney General about the Board's procedures. The Attorney General found that the Board was conducting an "oral test" instead of an "oral interview" as allowed by statute.

The cessation of licensure by credentials restricts entry into the dental profession in Alaska for out-of-state dentists wishing to practice in the State.

As part of the 1986 legislation which continued the Board for two years, the Legislature passed two letters of intent that the Board should repeal the emergency regulation and reinstate licensure by credentials. The Board has not complied with this intent. We recommend that licensure by credentials be made a mandatory function of the Board.

Recommendation No. 2

The Board should review application requirements and recommend changes for procedures which do not have a clear relationship to a public purpose.

Alaska statute requires a personal interview by a board member for licensure by credentials for dental hygienists. The Board also plans to require a personal interview for all dentists who request licensing after taking the Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) tests. The interview requirement is an additional procedure which has not resulted in application denial. The requirement is an added delay in a lengthy licensing procedure.

For licensing as a dental specialist, the Board accepts copies of certificates submitted by the applicant as proof of education attainments instead of requiring confirmation by the school.

We recommend the elimination of the personal interview and the policy of accepting notarized copies of certificates as proof of education achievements to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the licensing process. Instead of accepting copies of certificates, the Board should receive direct confirmation from the appropriate licensing boards.

CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**

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ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC NEED

Limited Analysis

The following analyses of board activities relate to the public need factors defined in the "sunset" law. These analyses are not intended to be comprehensive, but address those areas we were able to cover within the scope of our review.

I. The extent to which the board, commission, or program has operated in the public interest.

A. The Board has served the public by examining and licensing qualified applicants and proposing changes in regulations that are necessary to enforce State statutes and enhances quality of dental care to Alaskans. To accomplish these functions, the Board has held an average of four board meetings during the past two fiscal years.

B. Legislation was passed in 1987 which allows the Board to participate in the administration of examinations instead requiring the state to conduct its own examination. Using a regional examination has resulted in a cost savings to the state and increases the pool of applicants eligible for licensure.

II. The extent to which the operation of the board, commission, or agency program has been impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, procedures, and practices which it has adopted, and any other matter, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters.

The Board suspended, by regulation in 1984, statutory provision for licensure by credentials because of legal problems surrounding the scope of the interview requirement for applicants. The Attorney General's Office has determined that the personal interview of an applicant by a Board member be limited to verifying credentials and asking questions, rather than requiring case presentations of the applicant's prior work for examination. The Board does not feel that it can adequately measure the qualifications of applicants without examining case presentations for issuing licenses by credentials. There are no plans for reenacting licensure by credentials in the future (see recommendation No. 1).

III. The extent to which the board, commission, or agency has recommended statutory changes which are generally of benefit to the public interest.

Legislation was enacted in 1987 to permit the use of a regional examination in place of the state conducted examination. The legislation also increased the size of the board membership to ensure an adequate pool of examiners for the regional examination.

- IV. The extent to which the board, commission, or agency has encouraged interested persons to report to it concerning the effect of its regulations and decisions on the effectiveness of service, economy of service, and availability of service which it has provided.

The Board advertises proposed regulation changes in major Alaskan newspapers, allows applicants to appeal their examination grades, and holds open meetings.

- V. The extent to which the board, commission, or agency has encouraged public participation in the making of its regulations and decisions.

A. The Board announces its board meetings, examinations, and proposed regulations and regulation amendments in the Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau newspapers as required by law.

B. The Board presents and discusses correspondence related to Board matters which has been received from various persons and associations.

- VI. The efficiency with which public inquiries or complaints regarding the activities of the board, commission, or agency filed with it, with the department to which a board or commission is administratively assigned, or with the Office of the Ombudsman have been processed and resolved.

The Board processes and addressed complaints in an effective and timely manner.

- VII. The extent to which a board or commission which regulated entry into an occupation or profession has presented qualified applicants to serve the public.

The Board issued 25 dental licenses and 31 dental hygienist licenses in FY86. During FY87, the Board issued 18 dental licenses and 23 dental hygienist licenses.

- VIII. The extent to which state personnel practices, including affirmative action requirements, have been complied with by the board, commission, or agency to its own activities and the area of activity or interest.

The Human Rights Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office have received no complaints related to the Board's activities.

- IX. The extent to which statutory, regulatory, budgeting, or other changes are necessary to enable the agency, board, or commission to better serve the interests of the public and to comply with the factors enumerated in this subsection.

Please refer to the previous section, Findings and Recommendations.

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APPENDIXES

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APPENDIX A

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES COMPARED WITH EXPENDITURES
For Fiscal Year 1987
(Unaudited)
(Note 1)

Average Revenue (Note 2)	\$51,056
Expenditures (Note 3)	<u>57,802</u>
Excess of Expenditures Over Revenues	<u>\$ 6.746</u>

Note 1

The Schedule of Revenues Compared with Expenditures was prepared from available records and discussions with the Division of Occupational Licensing (DOL) personnel. The records were not audited by us and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the Board's Schedule of Revenues Compared with Expenditures.

Note 2

A significant portion of revenues is composed of license renewal fees. Licenses were renewed quadrennially. Because of the renewals, revenues varied substantially every fourth year. Therefore, we combined revenues collected in fiscal year 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1987; and calculated a total in order to obtain a representative amount of average annual revenues collected. Licensing fees were increased in November 1986 in response to legislative intent to make the Boards more self supporting. See Appendix B, Schedule 1 for the current fee schedule.

Note 3

Expenditures consist of direct costs resulting from Board activities, which includes travel, per diem, and miscellaneous contractual expenditures incurred by the Board members and the Board's licensing examiner. This amount does not include indirect administrative expenditures of the Division of Occupational Licensing or expenditures for efforts of other departments assisting the Board.

APPENDIX B

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS
SCHEDULE OF ESTIMATED REVENUES
COMPARED WITH BUDGETED EXPENDITURES
For Fiscal Year 1988
(Unaudited)
(Note 1)

Average Revenue (Note 2)	\$53,265
Expenditures (Note 3)	<u>76,368</u>
Excess of Expenditures Over Revenues	<u>\$23,103</u>

Schedule 1
Types of Revenues
(Note 4)

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Collection Time</u>
Filing Fee		
Dentist	\$ 20	With application
Dental Hygienist	\$ 20	With application
Examination Fee		
Dentist	\$375	Before exam
Dental Hygienist	\$150	Before exam
Credential Review Fee		
Dental Hygienist	\$ 50	Before interview
Initial License Fee		
Dentist	\$ 30	Before licensure
Dental Hygienist	\$ 20	Before licensure
Registration/Renewal Fee		
Dentist	\$360	Before licensure; quadrennially thereafter
Dental Specialist	\$100	" "
Dental Hygienist	\$200	" "
Specialty License	\$100	Before licensure
Branch Office Registration	\$ 20	Quadrennially
Local Anesthetic Permit	\$ 20	With application

Note 1

The Division of Occupational Licensing (DOL) prepared the above Schedule of Estimated Revenues Compared with Budgeted Expenditures. The schedule is included for informational purposes only and has not been audited by us. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the Board's Schedule of Estimated Revenues Compared with Budgeted Expenditures.

Note 2

Revenues were estimated based upon the current licensing fees (See schedule 1) and projected license renewals and application fees for fiscal years 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991. Because of a downward trend in Alaska's economy the projection for revenues includes a factor representing a 20% to 30% decline in the number licensed professionals.

Note 3

Expenditures consist of FY88 budgeted direct costs associated with board member activities (i.e. travel and per diem) and a allocation of direct and indirect costs of DOL. It should be noted that represented expenditures do not include expenses incurred by other Departments or other divisions of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development in assisting the Board.

Note 4

This schedule represents the licensing fees currently in effect. Fees were raised in November 1986 in response to legislative intent to make the Boards more self supporting. Fees have not be adjusted to reflect biennial renewal schedule which passed in 1987.

APPENDIX C

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS
PRACTICAL EXAMINATION AND STATISTICS

Prior to June 1987, the Board conducted a state written and clinical examination for dentists and dental hygienists. Beginning in June 1987, the Board is accepting the results of the Western Regional Examining Board test retroactively to January 1, 1987.

The following statistics are from the state administered examinations.

Alaska Dental Examination Statistics

	<u>Dentists</u>		<u>Hygienists</u>	
	<u>FY 86</u>	<u>FY 87</u>	<u>FY 86</u>	<u>FY 87</u>
Number of Examinees	25	25	21	20
Number Failed	16	8	4	2
Number Passed	9	17	17	18
Percentage Pass Rate	36.0%	68.0%	81.0%	90.0%

APPENDIX D

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS
SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICS
As of November 2, 1987

Dentists licensed in State	316
Out-of-State Dentists licensed in State	111
Dental Hygienists	306
Dental Specialists (also have dental license)	46
Average number of meetings per year	4

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STATE OF ALASKA

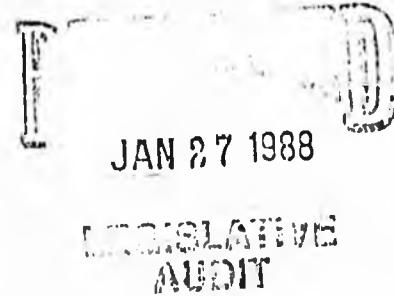
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

P. O. BOX D
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0800
PHONE: (907) 465-2500

January 21, 1988



Mr. Randy Welker
Acting Legislative Auditor
Division of Legislative Audit
Budget and Audit Committee
P.O. Box W
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mr. Welker:

This letter is written in response to the Budget and Audit Committee's (hereinafter "Committee") report of its sunset performance review of the Board of Dental Examiners (hereinafter "Board"). Below is the Department of Commerce and Economic Development's (hereinafter "Department") comments on the Committee's findings and recommendations.

Response to Recommendation No. 1

The Committee, in Recommendation No. 1, finds:

1. that the "cessation of licensure by credentials restricts entry into the dental profession in Alaska for out-of-state dentists wishing to practice in the state"; and
2. that the Board has "not complied" with two letters of legislative intent that the Board should reinstate licensure by credentials.

As a result of these findings, the Committee has recommended "that licensure by credentials be made a mandatory function of the Board."

As the Committee is aware, the issue of admission by credentials is very controversial. Indeed, given the constant pressure to which the Dental Board has been subjected since its cessation of licensure by credentials in 1984, the Department is, itself, admittedly surprised that the Board has not taken action to resolve the dispute. The Board's refusal to take action in this regard is of serious concern to the Department and, more specifically, the Division of Occupational Licensing ("Division").

The Board's inactions in this regard have also received the attention of the Office of the Governor. Governor Steve Cowper recently filled two vacancies on the Dental Board. In making his appointments, Governor Cowper respectfully declined to follow the recommendations of the Alaska Dental Society (which, by and large, opposes credentialling) and, instead, appointed dentists more favorably disposed toward licensure by credential. Given the past make-up of the Board, these new appointments do much to correct the Board's previously rather imbalanced perspective on the issue.

It is also important to recognize that the Board of Dental Examiners has done much to improve its admission procedures, albeit in direct response to previous performance review recommendations by the Budget and Audit Committee. Regardless of the motivation, it must be noted that the Board no longer offers its own exam but, rather, utilizes an exam designed, written and graded by the Western Regional Examination Board (WREB). This action alone has done much to deflect previously oft-expressed criticism that the Board was primarily interested in limiting the number of dentists eligible to practice in Alaska. It should also go far in assuring the public that qualified dentists are being licensed and in divorcing the Board from its protectionist label.

The "protectionist" label is what lies behind the continued controversy over credentialling. The cost of dental care in Alaska is admittedly high. Legislative and Administration concerns for the high cost of dental care has led these entities to conclude that the admission of greater numbers of dentists to Alaska would lower the cost of dental care. Previously, the Alaska-based exam was seen as one of the ways the Board limited the number of dentists able to practice in Alaska. Now, with the new exam procedures in place, the main focus of concern rests on the Board's failure to provide for licensure by credentialling. At its most recent meeting, the Division Director Randall Burns discussed with the Board its apparent unwillingness to back down from its decision not to offer licensure by credential, even in the face of legislative intent to the contrary and the obvious message sent to the Board via the Governor's recent Board appointments. It became clear during these discussions that the Board is in-turn concerned that this issue has become the focus of so much legislative and administration attention.

In its defense, the Dental Board seems confused by these attempts to force the Board to adopt admission criteria that not even a majority of the other states have seen fit to enact into law. In addition, it is the Board's understanding that a number of the states that currently provide for admission by credential are presently reconsidering their decision to provide for licensure in this manner. If so few states are firmly committed to credentialling, and if -- as it appears -- there are a number of real problems with the concept, then the Board wonders from what

source does the interest in credentialling come? In addition, the Board does seem genuinely concerned that failure to require passage of an exam prior to admission will greatly reduce the quality of dental practice in Alaska.

It certainly is a complex issue, and not all of the concerns have been fully addressed by the Legislature or the Administration. For example, licensure by credential in most professions requires that a good, central source of disciplinary information be available, yet no such data bank presently exists on dentists. The American Bar Association, in contrast, maintains a central discipline bank on all disciplinary actions taken against licensed attorneys which can be accessed by any of some 53 jurisdictions.

Because the restructured Board can now more fairly adjudge the public's interests in this matter, the Department is not presently able to agree or disagree with Recommendation No. 1. Rather, it would prefer to see what results from this new make-up of the Board. With a more balanced membership, the issue of licensure by credential will no doubt be debated more fully and the pros and cons of credentialling more thoroughly researched by the Board. Under these circumstances, it seems appropriate to continue to let the Board grapple with this important issue.

Response to Recommendation No.2

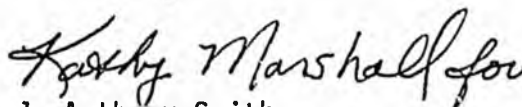
The second recommendation addresses a number of administrative concerns regarding the Board's application procedures. We will address them individually:

1. There is a recommendation that the Board eliminate the personal interview because it is a procedure "which has not resulted in application denial." The sole purpose of the "personal" interview, as stated in a regulation recently approved by the Board for publication, is to provide for identification of the applicant and to discuss with the applicant the provisions of the Dental Board's statutes. Particularly now that the WREB exam is administered out-of-state, with many of the applicants not personally known to the Board or Division staff, it is important before licensure that the Board be assured that the person who has applied for admission and sat for the exam is the same person who moves to Alaska to set up in the practice of dentistry. In addition, since the WREB exam does not test for knowledge of Alaska's dentistry statutes, this interview provides an opportunity for the Board to bring pertinent provisions of the statutes and regulations to the new admittee's attention.

While this may delay admission by a day or two at most, it is surely in the state's best interest to take the time necessary to avoid allowing the unscrupulous to deceive a public desirous of quality dental care, and to assure at least a grudging familiarity with the statutes that will guide that licensee's practice. The Department suggests that the recommendation is not in the public's interest.

2. There is a recommendation that the board should cease accepting copies of certificates submitted by an applicant as proof of educational attainment. "Instead of accepting copies of certificates," the Committee recommends that "the Board should receive direct confirmation from the appropriate licensing boards." The Department absolutely agrees with this recommendation and shall institute this policy immediately. The Division was in error not to insist on direct confirmation.

Sincerely,



J. Anthony Smith
Commissioner

JAS/mst7204m
011988a

6-0524E
Lauterbach
3/13/89

Original sponsor: Halford

1 IN THE SENATE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 126 ()

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Board of Dental Examiners."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 08.36.234 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 08.36.234. LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall [MAY]
10 provide for the licensing without examination of a dentist who

11 (1) is a graduate of a dental college accredited by the
12 Commission on Accreditation of the American Dental Association, or its
13 successor agency, and holds a certificate from the American Dental
14 Association Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations that the
15 dentist has passed the written examination given by the commission;

16 (2) has been licensed to practice dentistry in another
17 state, territory, or region with licensing requirements at least
18 equivalent in scope, quality and difficulty to those of this state at
19 the time of licensure;

20 (3) is endorsed by the licensing entity in the jurisdiction
21 where the dentist is currently licensed;

22 (4) has been engaged in continuous active practice averag-
23 ing at least 20 hours per week for each of the five years immediately
24 preceding the application;

25 (5) [(4)] is not the subject of an unresolved complaint,
26 review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a dental
27 licensing jurisdiction;

1 (7) [(6)] has not failed the clinical examination of this
2 state or holds a certificate from the Western Regional Examining Board
3 stating that the dentist has passed the clinical examination given by
4 that board;

5 (8) [(7)] is personally interviewed by the board;

6 (9) [(8)] pays all required fees.
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Original sponsor: Halford

1 IN THE SENATE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 126 ()

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to licensure of dentists; and pro-
7 viding for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 08.36.160 is amended by adding a new subsection to
10 read:

11 (e) A passing score on a clinical examination given by the
12 Western Regional Examining Board on or after January 1, 1982, consti-
13 tutes a passing score on a clinical examination required under this
14 chapter.

15 * Sec. 2. AS 08.36.234 is amended to read:

16 Sec. 08.36.234. LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall [MAY]
17 provide for the licensing without examination of a dentist who

18 (1) is a graduate of a dental college accredited by the
19 Commission on Accreditation of the American Dental Association, or its
20 successor agency, and holds a certificate from the American Dental
21 Association Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations that the
22 dentist has passed the written examination given by the commission;

23 (2) has been licensed to practice dentistry in another
24 state, territory, or region with licensing requirements at least
25 equivalent in scope, quality and difficulty to those of this state at
26 the time of licensure;

27 (3) is endorsed by the licensing entity in the jurisdiction
28 where the dentist is currently licensed; if the dentist is employed by
29 the federal government, the dentist must be endorsed by the employing

1 federal agency;

2 (4) has been engaged in continuous active practice averag-
3 ing at least 20 hours per week for each of the five years immediately
4 preceding the application;

5 (5) [(4)] is not the subject of an unresolved complaint,
6 review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a dental
7 licensing jurisdiction;

8 (6) [(5)] has not previously had a license to practice
9 dentistry revoked;

10 (7) [(6)] has not failed the clinical examination of this
11 state;

12 (8) submits to the board documentation that the dentist has
13 completed at least 50 hours of continuing education related to den-
14 tistry in the three years preceding application for a license in this
15 state; the continuing education must have been approved by the licens-
16 ing entity of the jurisdiction in which the education was provided;

17 (9) provides proof of current certification in cardiopulmo-
18 nary resuscitation techniques;

19 (10) [(7)] is personally interviewed by the board;

20 (11) [(8)] pays all required fees.

21 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).
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Original sponsor: Halford

1 IN THE SENATE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 126 ()

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to licensure of dentists."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 08.36.160 is amended by adding a new subsection to
9 read:

10 (e) A passing score on a clinical examination given by the
11 Western Regional Examining Board on or after January 1, 198⁸⁴~~2~~, consti-
12 tutes a passing score on a clinical examination required under this
13 chapter.

14 * Sec. 2. AS 08.36.234 is amended to read:

15 Sec. 08.36.234. LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall [MAY]
16 provide for the licensing without examination of a dentist who

17 (1) is a graduate of a dental college accredited by the
18 Commission on Accreditation of the American Dental Association, or its
19 successor agency, and holds a certificate from the American Dental
20 Association Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations that the
21 dentist has passed the written examination given by the commission;

22 (2) has been licensed to practice dentistry in another
23 state, territory, or region with licensing requirements at least
24 equivalent in scope, quality and difficulty to those of this state at
25 the time of licensure;

26 (3) is endorsed by the licensing entity in the jurisdiction
27 where the dentist is currently licensed; if the dentist is employed by
28 the federal government, the dentist must be endorsed by the employing
29 federal agency;

1 (4) has been engaged in continuous active practice averag-
2 ing at least 20 hours per week for each of the five years immediately
3 preceding the application;

4 (5) [(4)] is not the subject of an unresolved complaint,
5 review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a dental
6 licensing jurisdiction;

7 (6) [(5)] has not previously had a license to practice
8 dentistry suspended or revoked;

9 (7) [(6)] has not failed the clinical examination of this
10 state;

11 (8) submits to the board documentation that the dentist has
12 completed at least 50 hours of continuing education related to clin-
13 ical dentistry in the three years preceding application for a license
14 in this state; the continuing education must have been approved by the
15 American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, or the
16 appropriate specialty board;

17 (9) provides proof of current certification in cardiopulmo-
18 nary resuscitation techniques;

19 (10) [(7)] is personally interviewed by the board;

20 (11) [(8)] pays all required fees.
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Original sponsor: Halford

As compared to 3/17/89 draft

1 IN THE SENATE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 126 ()

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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8 * Section 1. AS 08.36.160 is amended by adding a new subsection to
9 read:

10 *change* (e) A passing score on a clinical examination given by the
11 Western Regional Examining Board within the five years preceding
12 licensure application under this chapter constitutes a passing score
13 on a clinical examination required under this chapter. The board may
14 accept a passing score on a clinical examination given by the Western
15 Regional Examining Board more than five years preceding licensure
16 application if the examination was taken on or after January 1, 1987.

17 * Sec. 2. AS 08.36.234 is amended to read:

18 Sec. 08.36.234. LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall [MAY]
19 provide for the licensing without examination of a dentist who

20 (1) is a graduate of a dental college accredited by the
21 Commission on Accreditation of the American Dental Association, or its
22 successor agency, and holds a certificate from the American Dental
23 Association Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations that the
24 dentist has passed the written examination given by the commission;

25 (2) has been licensed to practice dentistry in another
26 state, territory, or region with licensing requirements at least
27 equivalent in scope, quality and difficulty to those of this state at
28 the time of licensure;

29 (3) is endorsed by the licensing entity in the jurisdiction

1 where the dentist is currently licensed; if the dentist is employed by
2 the federal government, the dentist must be endorsed by the employing
3 federal agency;

4 (4) has been engaged in continuous active practice averag-
5 ing at least 20 hours per week for each of the five years immediately
6 preceding the application;

7 (5) [(4)] is not the subject of an unresolved complaint,
8 review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a dental
9 licensing jurisdiction;

10 (6) [(5)] has not previously had a license to practice
11 dentistry suspended for grounds similar to those specified under
12 AS 08.36.315, or revoked; added

13 (7) [(6)] has not failed the clinical examination of this
14 state;

15 (8) submits to the board documentation that the dentist has
16 completed at least 50 hours of continuing education related to clin-
17 ical dentistry in the three years preceding application for a license
18 in this state; the continuing education must have been approved by the
19 American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, or the
20 appropriate specialty board;

21 (9) provides proof of current certification in cardiopulmo-
22 nary resuscitation techniques;

23 (10) [(7)] is personally interviewed by the board;

24 (11) [(8)] pays all required fees.
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Original sponsor: Halford

Changes compared to 3/22

Version which passed L+C

1 IN THE SENATE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 126 ()

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to licensure of dentists."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 08.36.160 is amended by adding a new subsection to
9 read:

10 (e) A passing score on a clinical examination given by the
11 Western Regional Examining Board within the five years preceding
12 licensure application under this chapter constitutes a passing score
13 on a clinical examination required under this chapter. The board may
14 accept a passing score on a clinical examination given by the Western
15 Regional Examining Board more than five years preceding licensure
16 application if the examination was taken on or after January 1, 1987.

17 * Sec. 2. AS 08.36.234 is amended to read:

18 Sec. 08.36.234. LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall [MAY]
19 provide for the licensing without examination, except as provided in
20 (10) of this section, of a dentist who

21 (1) is a graduate of a dental college accredited by the
22 Commission on Accreditation of the American Dental Association, or its
23 successor agency, and holds a certificate from the American Dental
24 Association Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations that the
25 dentist has passed the written examination given by the commission;

26 (2) has been licensed to practice dentistry in another
27 state, territory, or region of the United States with licensing re-
28 quirements at least equivalent in scope, quality and difficulty to
29 those of this state at the time of licensure;

1 (3) is endorsed by the licensing entity in the jurisdiction
2 where the dentist is currently licensed; if the dentist is employed by
3 the federal government, the dentist must be endorsed by the employing
4 federal agency;

5 (4) has been engaged in continuous active clinical practice
6 averaging at least 20 hours per week for each of the five years imme-
7 diately preceding the application;

8 (5) [(4)] is not the subject of an unresolved complaint,
9 review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a dental
10 licensing jurisdiction;

11 (6) [(5)] has not previously had a license to practice
12 dentistry suspended for grounds similar to those specified under
13 AS 08.36.315, or revoked;

14 (7) [(6)] has not failed the clinical examination of this
15 state;

16 (8) submits to the board documentation that the dentist has
17 completed at least 50 hours of continuing education related to clin-
18 ical dentistry in the three years preceding application for a license
19 in this state; the continuing education must have been approved by the
20 American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, or the
21 appropriate specialty board;

22 (9) provides proof of current certification in cardiopulmo-
23 nary resuscitation techniques;

24 (10) has passed, to the satisfaction of the board, the part
25 of the written examination given under AS 08.36.160 that pertains to
26 the state's laws on the practice of dentistry; the board may not
27 require a higher passing score for applicants under this section than
28 the board requires for applicants under AS 08.36.110;

29 (11) [(7)] is personally interviewed by the board;

1 (12) [(8)] pays all required fees.
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126

FILE 2

Kenneth J. Mears, D.D.S., M.S.D.

THE MEDICAL PARK
2211 E. NO. LIGHTS BLVD., SUITE 203
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99504

TEL.: 277-0802

March 30, 1989

Jan Faiks, Senator
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Jan:

The Alaska State Society of Orthodontists thanks you for your efforts to block forced licensing of credentials by a few federal dentists. Our group has consistently resisted efforts towards unilateral reciprocity and licensing by credentials with-out a didactic exam. Alaska does not have problems with dental supply and demand due to the oversupply of dentists and specialists that followed the pipeline and still remain after the exit of many thousands of their patients. In many cases the exit of dentists from Alaska to follow their patients is blocked as the majority of Alaska dental licences give no exit reciprocity. The cost of quality dental treatment would not go down if we flood the market with untested applicants as overhead still remains high due to labor costs that are influenced by high public salaries and benefits.

I spent 21 years as a military dental clinician in active and reserve status, however some federal dentists so not treat patients. I am sure that their credentials would be rated highly, but do they still have the skill they may have had years ago? We passed the dental exam although we are specialists in orthodontics, why can't they?

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Mears
President, Alaska State Society
of Orthodontists

cc Senator Rick Halford
Alaska Dental Society

Member
American Association of
Orthodontists



March 27, 1989

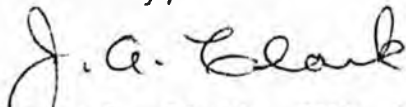
Senator Dick Eliason
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Eliason,

The Alaska Dental Society has become aware of CSSB 126 relating to dental license credentialing. This legislative proposal is poorly worded and does not permit or require any kind of background investigation of the applicants. It was introduced to favor federal service dentists and thusly discriminates against all others.

Passage of this Bill is definitely not in the public interest. I urge that you oppose this measure energetically.

Sincerely,



James A. Clark, DMD, MS

JAC/vlb

William R. Evans, DDS, APC
13012 Old Glen Hwy., Ste 102B
Eagle River, AK 99577
April 29, 1989

Senator Richard Eliason, Chairman
Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Senate
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: 1. SB 126
2. Alaska Dental Society ltr of April 26, 1989 to the Members of the Senate Labor and
Commerce Committee

Dear Senator Eliason:

I would appreciate your attention to a few comments I have regarding Dr. Kennedy's letter of April 26, 1989.

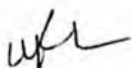
Dr. Kennedy alludes to two types of dental practices, those that are quality oriented and little effected by an influx of new practitioners, and those that are dollar oriented who chose not to commit themselves to organized dentistry's ethical standards. In principle, I would like to think that Dr. Kennedy is correct, but I doubt if any objective analysis of this subject has been done. It is important to remember that according to Sen. Falks, a member of the peer review committee of the local dental society said that patients are being "massacred by credentialed dentists." One may question the ethical propriety of such comments.

As I have stated in previous testimony to the committee, I strongly urge the inclusion of case presentations in any credentialing process, as does Dr. Kennedy; and I wholeheartedly concur with his comments regarding this aspect of the process. I also agree that a thorough background check is not without difficulty, but mechanisms are slowly coming on line to ease that problem. These mechanisms, plus initiative and thoroughness on the part of the dental examiners, could provide adequate input. The important point regarding background investigations is that if they are so important, why are they not now being done, and has the dental association ever advocated that they be done. There appears to be an underlying assumption that applicants for licensure by credentials need a more thorough background investigation than those applicants for licensure by examination. There has yet been no documentation to support such an assumption.

With regard to Dr. Kennedy's comments regarding enforcement mechanisms following licensure; about ten years ago, the state of Washington established a separate Dental Disciplinary Board empowered to deal with the issue of inept practitioners. Perhaps the state should investigate that as an avenue for expediting action against unsafe practitioners.

I urge the committee to remember that the vast majority of dentists in the State of Alaska are licensed by examination, and the majority of the practitioners involved in problems alluded to by Dr. Kennedy are practitioners licensed by examination. Institution of licensure by credentials will not have any bearing on those existing problems. That is a separate issue unrelated to licensure by credentials, and I hope it does not cloud the committee members' focus on the primary topic.

Respectfully,



William R. Evans, DDS

cc: Sen. Halford

PHILLIP L. LOCKER, D. D. S.
DENALI PROFESSIONAL CENTER
3401 DENALI ST. SUITE 301
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99502-4093
(907) 273-8573

February 3, 1989

Senator Jan Faiks
Alaska State Legislature
Senate
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Faiks

Re: Senate Bill No. 126
Labor and Commerce
Reinstatement of Licensure by Credentials

As you know AS08.36.234 allows but does not mandate the Dental Board to license applicants by the credentialing process rather than take and pass a clinical examination. In 1984, the Board suspended licensure by credentials when the AG demanded that it change its interview procedures.

Myself, the Alaska Dental Society, the dental specialists (orthodontists, oral surgeons, periodontists, etc) have continued to support the Dental Boards position of not reinstating credentialing for the following reasons

1. Only 19 states currently have provisions to license by credentials.
2. 8 of the 19 states will issue licensure by credentials only to candidates from states with a reciprocal agreement.
3. Kentucky, Ohio and Arkansas have recently reversed licensure by credentials in their states because of repeated problems verifying disciplinary action history of their applicants. In particular they have had repeated problems with bordering states where the applicant had multiple active licenses. Maryland is in the process of abolishing licensure by credentials for similar problems with disciplinary history and other adverse experiences.
4. Not one state West of the Rocky Mountains allows licensure by credentials (Alaska would be the only Western state to do so).
5. Historically, there has not been a totally reliable source to check on the applicants past history of disciplinary actions. Only 25 states regularly report to the AADE (Am. Assn. of Dental Examiners) clearing house for disciplinary action. The Army, Navy, and Air Force report periodically, but the Public Health Service has never submitted a report.
6. PL99-660, Title IV, The Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986, now requires all health care agencies and boards to collect and report all disciplinary actions, peer review activities, and litigation outcomes

published but will be available to those who have a need to know, and on a case-by-case basis. This will create many problems for states wanting to research an applicants past history in reviewing his credentials, especially if the candidate holds multiple licenses in several different states.

7. When the Board administered its own examination, it examined between 20-40 applicants per year. Now Alaska has joined WREB (Western Regional Examining Board) which consists of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. Last year they examined 380+ candidates and this year they project to examine over 400+ candidates. This increases those eligible for Alaska Dental Licensure by ten fold.

8. We must also consider the budgetary implications. The WREB exam is 100% examination funded. All travel, lodging, per diem, etc is funded by the examination fees. Credentialing, if done correctly requires an extensive review of the candidates past and therefore would require a considerable increase in division personnel time to research the candidates' career history.

9. The overall quality of the dental graduate has decreased in recent years. In 1979 there were 6200 students enrolled in the first year of dental school, today there are 4200. In the early 70's there were as many as 10 applicants for every position open in a dental school, last year there was an average of only one applicant for every opening in the first year of dental education. Licensure examinations across the country have a steady decrease in the percentage of applicants passing their examinations. There are many reasons for these trends, but credentialing is not the answer.

In summary, I do not support licensure by credentials since the process appears to be a sham in many states which employ this mechanism. No Western states currently use this licensing modality, and those Eastern states that do simply conduct a paper review of the credentials, without so much as a cursory investigation of the licensee's career record of competency. This type of quality assesment does not fulfill the Board's primary objective to "safeguard the health and safety of the public". When national continuing competence assurance happens and when the competency of licensees is assessed periodically, national licensure by credentials could become a reality. This is not the case now, and should not be the case in Alaska!

Sincerely,



Phillip L. Locker, DDS

cc: Senator Rick Halford



Alaska Dental Society

3400 Spenard Road, Suite 10
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 277-4675

April 26, 1989

Members Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
State of Alaska

Dear Senators,

I would like to thank you for giving the Alaska Dental Society (ADS) the opportunity to submit comments regarding SB126. We realize that your committee has been hard at work on this bill for several months. Unfortunately, due to communication breakdowns, we did not receive notice of hearings in time to make an appropriate response.

Several days ago I spoke with Sheila Peterson in Senator Eliason's office. She asked me to comment on the modified version of SB126. In my conversation with Ms. Peterson, I attempted to express ADS concerns regarding SB126 specifically, as well as the method of credentialing outlined in the Bill.

Contrary to popular belief and previous testimony before your committee, the ADS does not oppose credentialing for "turf protection" reasons. The vast majority of dental providers in Alaska are high quality service oriented professionals. The patients in our offices are service, quality and value driven. They see their chosen dentists because of the trust, attention, and personal relationships developed over years of association. As a result, these people refer their families and friends. The influx of new practitioners has very little effect on practices like these. It does have an effect on the high volume, dollar driven practices where profit and not quality professional services are the primary motivations. The majority of the practitioners in this latter category have chosen not to be members in the ADS. Their lack of participation is based on disinterest in their profession and an unwillingness to commit themselves to "organized dentistry's" ethical standards. What is clear, is that for the vast majority of the Alaska Dental Society members, new practitioner competition is not a major concern.

Now, to get back to our reasons for opposing SB126. I will divide my comments into two basic categories. First, I will discuss the problems we feel are associated on granting licensure without examination; and second, I will comment on the existing administrative procedures involved in disciplining already licensed practitioners.

As I mentioned to Ms. Peterson, we have grave reservations as to the ability of The Department of Occupational Licensing and/or the Board of Dental Examiners to effectively and thoroughly investigate an applicant's previous technical, ethical, and disciplinary history. This information is not always readily available. You have heard testimony as to use of national disciplinary reporting agencies such as the American Association of Dental Examiners, (AADE), and the new National Practitioner Data Bank. Information we have

received indicates that not all states participate in reporting to these agencies-25% of the states do not report to the AADE clearing house, many of them in the West. The U.S. Public Health Service (which has many dentists employed in Alaska) also does not report to AADE. Also, SB126 addresses "unresolved complaints". Information or complaints under investigation and unresolved are not available for obvious legal reasons. The extra time and effort to investigate and supplement applications would have to be very costly to the State if done properly.

We have been specifically asked if The West. Regional Exam. Board does a background investigation on its exam candidates. I am no expert on WREB's policies, but I understand that they do not require a background check as is proposed in the credentialing process. WREB is only a testing agency, not a licensing authority. They leave licensing up to each of their member states and therefore also the burden of a comprehensive background check. WREB does do one thing that SB126 cannot, and that is examine clinical competence. SB126 allows for only a personal interview. As you know, before the AG's Office reversed its position on how the personal interview was being conducted in 1984, the Board felt the credentialing process was acceptable. They had required presentations of case histories and studies. The candidates were able to present examples of their finest dentistry. The Board only saw what each candidate felt was his/her best. It seemed to be very fair, indeed. This pre-1984 oral interview was also valuable to the Board in another way. It allowed the Board to question the candidates and find out how they felt about their dentistry and their patients. Because dentistry is such a technical science and we see complicated ethical situations daily, the ADS feels that this type of oral interview-exam is mandatory to a successful credentialing process.

To summarize our objections to the pre-licensing procedures of SB126, I would like to reiterate our two primary concerns:

- 1) the inability to assure a thorough and accurate prior professional history and competence
- 2) the inability to examine applicants through presentation of case histories in conjunction with their oral interview

I would now like to proceed to an aspect of licensure only touched upon in your previous hearings. One of the federal service dentists testified that "the best place to handle potentially incompetent or unethical practitioners is not in the licensure process, but by enforcement mechanisms after licensure". In concept this seems correct, but historically we have found it to be just the opposite. We believe that the State has the responsibility to its citizens to do everything possible to limit their exposure to a potentially unsafe provider. But, the theory of taking disciplinary action against an already licensed dentist, historically is just that, a theory. The Board of Dental Examiners has been handcuffed in its efforts to protect the public from fraudulent, unethical, or even dangerous providers. It has been very frustrating over the years to watch the AG's Office drag its heels in processing investigations and complaints. I can't think of even one license ever being revoked. As an example, there is one case on record where the dental community pursued multiple complaints against one practitioner for almost 20 years before any action could be taken. In the end, this individual voluntarily relinquished his dental license and retired. Please consider, as we did, the reality of an overloaded, noncommittal enforcement system compromising the many patients who selected this dentist during those 20 years, expecting to receive competent clinical care.

Why this long history of indifference? Alaska's Administrative Procedures

preclude the Board from any licensing discipline until after Occupational Licensing, the AG's Office, and finally a hearing officer have made their recommendations. This laborious process has resulted in accused and recurrent offenders continuing to practice and harm the unsuspecting citizens of our State for months and frequently years after complaints and investigations have been filed. This type of disciplinary response is reprehensible.

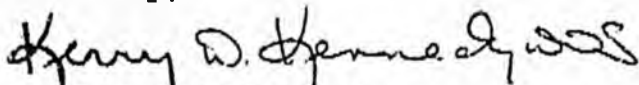
With this historic background, lacking effectiveness, and the poor cooperation from the AG's Office in the past, we are understandably very cautious when the licensing question is raised. The only feasible method under the current situation to license dentists and assure Alaska's high standard of dental care and thus protect the public from potential harm is the examination process currently employed by WREB.

Should the legislature put into place a mechanism by which the Dental Board could more expeditiously regulate and take disciplinary action against an offender's license, then the Alaska Dental Society's position on credentialing could be relaxed. Thus far, however, entry level control through examination is the only acceptable alternative.

I realize that this statement of position does not address all aspects of SB126. I would like to make myself and other ADS leaders available to you for verbal discussion.

Please advise me as to your wishes in this regard.

Sincerely,



Kerry D. Kennedy, DDS
President
Alaska Dental Society



Alaska Dental Society

3400 Spenard Road, Suite 10
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 277-4675

March 28, 1990

Senator Richard Eliason
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Eliason:

Enclosed is a position statement from the Alaska Dental Society regarding CS for Senate Bill 126 - dental licensure by credentials.

It is our understanding that this bill will be heard on the Senate Floor in reconsideration next Thursday, April 5th. Once again, we urge you to review our position in the hopes that (even with your YES vote) you will have all the information at hand, and....may even consider a change in vote from YES to NO.

Our main premise for opposition remains consistent - Dentistry in Alaska has not only maintained a high professional image, but with the advent of the Western Regional Examining Board exam, there is an excellent mechanism for clinically qualified practitioners to come to Alaska and establish practice locations. All of us can be proud of the dental treatment provided to the citizens of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Phil Moritz, DDS.
Phillip V. Moritz, D.D.S.
President
Alaska Dental Society



Alaska Dental Society

3400 Spenard Road, Suite 10
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 277-4675

An Outline of Arguments Toward
Defeat of CS for Senate Bill 126

DENTAL LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS

There seem to be two main areas of concern:

- I. Not jeopardizing the high level of quality dental care that Alaskans now receive
 - II. Dispelling the myth of "turf protecting" that has been a continuous accusation since statehood.
- I. Alaska has a very high level of quality dental care at the present time. There is no reason to jeopardize that level of care. Rather, what we need are the tools to enhance that quality of care - ie, a stronger dental board with more disciplinary power.
- A. Although most dentists in Alaska and the ADA support the idea of credentialing, we oppose this bill because the systems just simply are not in place to adequately protect the public.
- The American Association of Dental Examiners and the National Practitioner Data Bank do not have thorough or complete information on dentists who have been involved in malpractice, drug abuse, fraud, morals charges and peer review investigations. A large percentage of states as well as several branches of the military do not share their information with AADE. The NPDB has never gotten off the ground and when it does, will start from that date forward and will take at least five years before incoming data is relevant.
- These are the only organizations available to check the background of a potential applicant for credentialing nationwide.
- Of the states that have tried credentialing, three have already dropped it because of the problems they have had. (ARK, 1987; OH, 1984; TN, 1988.)
- B. Current state and regional exams are not equal in requirements or standards. Dental schools across the country do not have equal standards for their graduates. Until these standards become equal, the best way to determine competence is by clinical examination.
- C. Dentistry is a relatively stable profession. There exists an element of risk in individuals who move from state to state five years (or more) after having graduated from dental school. Some practitioners may be running from problems, personal or legal..there is no sure way to check on questionable pasts for anyone applying for licensure through credentials. Alaska has often been viewed by unscrupulous professionals as a "last frontier." Why open a licensure mechanism for them?
- D. Recently a representative from CNA - the dental malpractice liability carrier - stated that Alaska has never had a successful court judgement against a dentist. This demonstrates the relatively high level of professionals we have in Alaska.
- E. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in a study on credentialing, stated that before national credentialing can become a reality, we will need:
1. an acceptable NATIONAL clinical exam
 2. uniform standards of dental schools
 3. state boards with better communication and sharing of disciplinary actions and continuing competency assessments.

F. Dental school enrollments are down drastically with some classes not being able to be filled. This means that the schools have had to lower their standards therefore the quality of recent graduates is going down rather than going up. Tougher testing is needed to weed out those not qualified.

G. Dentistry does not have any means of monitoring dentists already licensed as opposed to physicians (who are constantly monitored by review boards in hospitals). Once a dentist receives his license (ie by credentialing) it takes a lot of effort for the Division of Occupational Licensing to revoke this privilege - usually at the expense of many damaged patients.

II. "Turf Protecting" This argument has always been with us since statehood and is fundamentally untrue as the numbers prove.

A. There are far more dentists in Alaska per capita than the national average.

1,753 persons per licensed dentist (nationwide)

1,252 persons per licensed dentist (Alaska)

28.6% more dentists in Alaska than the national average

If you subtract the military and native groups from the general population - because they receive their own federal-funded care - there are:

933 persons per licensed dentist (Alaska) or 47% more licensed dentists in Alaska than the national average.

B. There has been an increase of 34% in the number of licensed dentists in Alaska in the last 10 years:

1979 - 323 Alaska licensed dentists

1989 - 424 Alaska licensed dentists

In addition, to this, there are more than 100 military and PHS dentists in Alaska.

C. Distribution of dentists throughout the state is no longer a problem. There is not a town or village in this state that doesnot receive some form of dental care, public or private. All towns that would support a full-time or even a part-time practice in the state are being cared for.

D. There are more than 1,600 dentists who have passed the Western Regional Examining Board exam and only have to complete "paper work" to receive an Alaska license. This number increases by hundreds yearly.

E. All recommendations have been complied with as requested by the Alaska legislature:
For example:

-Alaska joined the Western Regional Examining Board

-The WREB exam is given by unbiased examiners mostly from other states

-The exam is given in various geographical locations

-The exam is given 4 times each year

F. The increased number of dentists in Alaska has led to various methods of marketing, ie, advertising in newspapers, T.V., radio and yellow pages. "Discount" dentists exist and advertise reduced rates for various procedures. The public has a wide range of practitioners to choose from.

SUMMARY

We believe we have the best position for credentialing as written in our own present dental statute.

Using "may" instead of "shall" leaves the door open for credentialing when it has all the ingredients to make it work nationally. (That may be 3-5 years down the road.)

Some states have tried licensure by credentials in some form and three have already withdrawn its availability because of problems and other states have added extra provisions (oral exam in South Dakota) as a prerequisite to licensure by credentials.

The ADA has a national position in favor of credentialing (as we do), but admits that more standardization of clinical tests as well as more effective collection and dissemination of information on practicing dentists, needs to be established.

The basic point is "if it isn't broke, why fix it?" The numbers show great strides have been made in increasing the number of dentists in Alaska - 34% in the last 10 years and 47% more licensed dentists per capita than the national average. Further, Alaska belongs to and participates in the Western Regional Examining Board.

The motivation for this bill comes from a handful of military dentists who don't want to make the effort to take a clinical exam.

96% of the Alaska licensed dentists surveyed, opposed this bill.



Alaska Dental Society

3400 Spenard Road, Suite 10
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 277-4675

TO Senators Johna Binkley, Dick Eliason, Steve Frank, Rick Balford, Tim Kelly
Pat Pourchot, Rick Uehling and Fred Zharoff.

FROM The Alaska Dental Society and member Dr. George Hansen

We are transmitting from the Alaska Dental Society office on GEMIFAX Fax
Line 907-274-2960, located at 3400 Spenard Rd. Suite 10, Anchorage, AK 99503.

If you experience problems in receiving this FAX please call us: 907-
or, toll-free (within Alaska) 800-478-4675.

Martha Reinbold

April 3, 1990

One

Operator

Date

Page

of

How Many

George M. Hansen, D.D.S.

4860 FOLKER STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507

TELEPHONE: (907) 273-3137

April 3, 1990

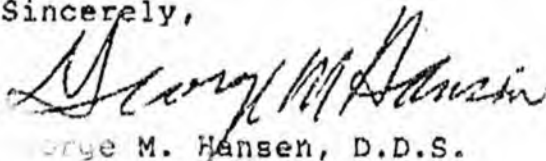
Dear Senator:

This article is from the March 20th issue of the Eureka, California Times - Standard newspaper.

Physicians are able to freely relocate. That is very convenient for the physician; however, patients trust that someone is looking out for patient interests. As you see from this article, that trust is misplaced, at least in the State of California where the State appears to be powerless to prevent Dr. Nickels' move from Brookings, Oregon to Smith River, California. I am personally familiar with this case and it could well be a tragedy waiting to happen.

Please vote NO on SB 126, Thursday, April 5th. As dentists we desire freedom of movement also, but we should have it only when that freedom is granted solely to fully qualified, capable, conscientious dentists with proven credentials.

Sincerely,



George M. Hansen, D.D.S.

GMH/5

Doctor probed in Oregon opens in Smith River

SMITH RIVER (UPI) -- A Brookings, Ore., doctor, who retired while the Oregon Board of Medical Examiners investigated his practice, has been granted land-use permits to build a medical facility across the border in Smith River.

Dr. Russell Nickels voluntarily retired from practicing medicine in Oregon effective July 1 and surrendered his Oregon medical license, according to Dave LaDuca, the medical board's chief investigator.

LaDuca said by retiring, Nickels avoided having the findings from the medical board investigation released to the public.

"There would have been some disciplinary action taken and we could have released the information," he said.

Last week, Nickels was granted permits to build a new facility and start practicing in Smith River.

LaDuca said the Federation of State Medical Boards will be notified of the Nickels case, but, according to Curry County's district attorney, no actions have been filed or are in the works.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. PHIL DOLEAC

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 616 WAINWRIGHT ROAD

CITY: FT. WAINWRIGHT

ZIP: 99703

PHONE: 356-3010

BILL NO: SB 126

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS

MESSAGE: I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF SB 126. IT WOULD ALLOW GREATER AVAILABILITY OF DENTAL CARE AND SPECIALITY DENTAL CARE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE CURRENT DENTAL SOCIETY POSITION ON THIS BILL IS DESIGNED TO LIMIT COMPETITION AND KEEP THE COST OF DENTAL SERVICES HIGH.

EOM-FZ

POMID: 07171327

DATE: 05/04/89

TIME: 17:13:27

LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMANSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: JAMES F. ANDRUS

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 3250 LATOCHE ST., APT. J-18

CITY: ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ZIP: 99508

PHONE: 261-4129

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: SEAT BELT BILLS

MESSAGE: OUR SENATORS TELL US THEY CARE ... IN A FASHION THAT WE CANNOT BEAR... THEY MAKE US WEAR BELTS... THAT GIVE US BIG WELTS... OUR FREEDOM GROWS EVER MORE RARE. AS IMPORTANT AS SEAT BELTS ARE, LIMITING GOVERNMENT'S REACH INTO OUR LIVES IS MORE IMPORTANT. KILL HB 105.

POMID: 03173720

DATE: 05/04/89

TIME: 17:37:20

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
CATO	COLLINS	COGHILL
COTTEN	DAVIDSON	DUNCAN
DAVIS, C.	DAVIS, M.	FAHRENKAMP
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAIKS
FINKELSTEIN	FOSTER	FISCHER
FURNACE	GOLL	FRANK
GRUENBERG	GRUSSENDORF	HALFORD
HANLEY	HOFFMAN	JONES
HUDSON	JACKO	KELLY
KOPONEN	LARSON	KERTTULA
LEMAN	MACLEAN	PEARCE
MARTIN	MENARD	POURCHOT
MILLER	NAVARRE	RODEY
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	STURGULEWSKI
RIEGER	SHARP	SZYMANSKI
SHULTZ	SHACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: JAMES F. ANDRUS

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 3250 LATOUCHE ST., APT. J-18

CITY: ANCHORAGE

ZIP: 99508

PHONE: 261-4129

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: SEATBELT BILLS

MESSAGE: TO THE HOUSE CAME AMENDMENTS OF NOTE... BUT THEY COULDN'T SEE HOW THEY SHOULD VOTE... WHEN THEY VOTE THE WRONG WAY... WE MAY CERTAINLY SAY... THAT THEY FOLLOW A SCRIPT NO ONE WROTE... MANDATORY SEAT BELT LAWS MAKE EVEN LESS SENSE THAN THE HOUSE. SPARE US FROM HB 105 AND SB 59.

POMID: 03083909

DATE: 05/05/89

TIME: 08:39:09

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
CATO	COLLINS	COGHILL
COTTEN	DAVIDSON	DUNCAN
DAVIS, C.	DAVIS, M.	FAHRENKAMP
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAIKS
FINKELSTEIN	FOSTER	FISCHER
FURNACE	GOLL	FRANK
GRUENBERG	GRUSSENDORF	HALFORD
HANLEY	HOFFMAN	JONES
HUDSON	JACKO	KELLY
KOPONEN	LARSON	KERTTULA
LEMAN	MACLEAN	PEARCE
MARTIN	MENARD	POURCHOT
MILLER	NAVARRÉ	RODEY
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	STURGULEWSKI
RIEGER	SHARP	SZYMANSKI
SHULTZ	SNACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: COL. RICHARD W. HOPKINS

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 74 BIRCH HILL DRIVE

CITY: FT. RICHARDSON

ZIP: 99505

PHONE: 428-3919

BILL NO: SB 126

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS

MESSAGE: I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOUR SUPPORT OF SB 126. THIS BILL, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE LICENSURE, BY CREDENTIALS, WOULD INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF DENTAL CARE TO ALL PEOPLE IN ALASKA AT A REDUCED COST. PLEASE GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO THIS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

POMID: 03090117

DATE: 05/05/89

TIME: 09:01:17

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMANSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: VALERIE AND DR. JASON RAMPTON
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 9711 TAKLI CIRCLE
CITY: EAGLE RIVER ZIP: 99577
PHONE: 694-9563
BILL NO: SB 126
SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS
MESSAGE: SB 126 WILL SOON BE BROUGHT UP FOR A VOTE ON THE SENATE FLOOR. THIS
WOULD ALLOW QUALIFIED DENTISTS LICENSURE BASED ON THEIR CREDENTIALS. THIS BILL
IS SUPPORT BY APPROXIMATELY 100 DENTISTS THROUGHOUT ALL OF ALASKA. PLEASE
SUPPORT THIS BILL.

POMID: 03134003
DATE: 05/05/89
TIME: 13:40:03
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMANSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: VIVICA CARR
TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 240663
CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99524
PHONE: 264-2634
BILL NO: HB 83
SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., HOLIDAY
MESSAGE: WITH ALL TYPES OF VIOLENCE AND RACISM ON THE RISE, AND WORLD PEACE
JEOPARDIZED DAILY, WE AS A NATION NEED A CONSTANT REMINDER OF WHERE WE HAVE
COME FROM AND WHERE WE DO NOT WISH TO RETURN. KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE! HONOR
A TRUE AMERICAN KING. PLEASE SUPPORT HB 83.

POMID: 03132045
DATE: 05/05/89
TIME: 13:20:45
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMANSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: WILLIAM AMSBERRY
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2430 HASTINGS LANE
CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99504
PHONE: 330-1023
BILL NO: SB 126
SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS
MESSAGE: I STRONGLY URGE PASSAGE OF SB 126. I FEEL IT WILL REDUCE THE COSTS OF
DENTISTRY IN ALASKA AND AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAIN QUALITY CARE AND INCREASE
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

POMID: 03160334
DATE: 05/05/89
TIME: 16:03:34
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMANSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: JOY BARBEE
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P O BOX 111215
CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99511
PHONE: 264-1703
BILL NO: HB 105
SUBJECT: MANDATORY SEATBELTS
MESSAGE: PLEASE VOTE YES AND PASS THROUGH THE SENATE.

POMID: 03162316
DATE: 05/05/89
TIME: 16:23:10
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

STURGULEWSKI
RODEY
KELLY
KERTTULA

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: MARIA MASSEY
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 1015 SHIRLEY
 CITY: NORTH POLE ZIP: 99705
 PHONE: 488-3334
 BILL NO:
 SUBJECT: PERMANENT FUND
 MESSAGE: I AM OPPOSED TO RAIDING THE PERMANENT FUND. CUT GOVERNMENT EXPENSES.

POMID: 07092004
 DATE: 04/28/89
 TIME: 09:20:04
 LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
CATO	COLLINS	COGHILL
COTTEN	DAVIDSON	DUNCAN
DAVIS, C.	DAVIS, M.	FAHRENKAMP
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAIKS
FINKELSTEIN	FOSTER	FISCHER
FURNACE	GOLL	FRANK
GRUENBERG	GRUSSENDORF	HALFORD
HANLEY	HOFFMAN	JONES
HUDSON	JACKO	KELLY
KOPONEN	LARSON	KERTTULA
LEMAN	MACLEAN	PEARCE
MARTIN	MENARD	POURCHOT
MILLER	NAVARRE	RODEY
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	STURGULEWSKI
RIEGER	SHARP	SZYMANSKI
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DANIEL G. VESTAL
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 21-571 G LEMON AVE
 CITY: ELEMENDORF AFB ZIP: 99506
 PHONE: 753-6488
 BILL NO: SB 126
 SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS
 MESSAGE: I AM AN ORAL HYGIENIST IN THE AIR FORCE. I SUPPORT SB 126. I HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH SOME OF THE DENTIST TRYING TO BECOME ALASKA LICENSED. THEY ARE NOT ONLY RESPECTED IN THE COMMUNITY, BUT THEIR QUALIFICATIONS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SHOULD MAKE THEM PRIME CANDIDATES FOR RECEIVING AN ALASKAN DENTAL LICENSE.

POMID: 03101002
 DATE: 04/28/89
 TIME: 10:10:02
 LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FAIKS
 KERTTULA
 COGHILL
 HALFORD
 RODEY

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. DENNIS GIESER (SIC)
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 11936 WILDERNESS DRIVE
CITY: ANCHORAGE, ALASKA ZIP: 99516
PHONE: 345-7030

BILL NO: SB 126

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS

MESSAGE: THIS BILL IDENTIFIES INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES
CLINICALLY AS WELL AS ETHICALLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC. ALTHOUGH
NOT FOOL PROOF (NOTHING IS) IT IS SUPERIOR TO A ONE TIME CLINICAL
EVALUATION SINCE IT MEASURES MUCH MORE. HOW MANY DENTISTS CURRENTLY
PRACTICING IN THIS STATE WOULD MEET ALL THESE CRITERIA?

POMID: 03103108
DATE: 04/28/89
TIME: 10:31:08
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FAIKS
HALFORD
RODEY
COGHILL
KERTTULA

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: EDWARD KROHN
TITLE: AREA CHAIR/DUCKS UNLIMITED
ADDRESS: BOX 587
CITY: SOLDOTNA, ALASKA ZIP: 99669
PHONE: 262-5885

BILL NO: SB 184

SUBJECT: REDOUBT BAY CRITICAL HABITAT AREA

MESSAGE: I WOULD URGE PASSAGE OF SB184 TO PROTECT CRITICAL HABITAT IN REDOUBT
BAY, AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.

POMID: 13102632
DATE: 04/28/89
TIME: 10:26:32
LIONAME: SOLDOTNA LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

MENARD
DAVIDSON
JACKO
FOSTER
NAVARRE
FURNACE
SHARP
HUDSON
DAVIS, M.

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMANSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: NELS FRANKLIN
TITLE: SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, SOUTHWEST REGION
ADDRESS: BOX 90
CITY: MANOKOTAK, ALASKA ZIP: 99628
PHONE: 289-1042
BILL NO: SB 15

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS BY PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES
MESSAGE: AS A BOARD MEMBER OF SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AS A PARENT,
I AM DEFINITELY OPPOSED TO SB15. OUR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS WILL SUFFER IF THIS
BECOMES LAW, WE LOSE LOCAL CONTROL AND FLEXIBILITY. THE UNIONS AND TEACHERS
MIGHT AS WELL BECOME THE SCHOOL BOARDS. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW SB15 TO MOVE FROM
COMMITTEE OR TO PASS THE SENATE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

POMID: 06114322
DATE: 04/28/89
TIME: 11:43:22
LIONAME: DILLINGHAM LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVE SENATORS

JACKO	FISCHER
	JONES
	ADAMS
	KELLY
	DUNCAN
	BINKLEY
	UEHLING
	FRANK
	PEARCE
	ZHAROFF
	FAIKS
	STURGULEWSKI
	COGHILL
	HALFORD

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. FOWELL TROTTER
TITLE: DENTIST
ADDRESS: 1214 MAOSEN
CITY: KODIAK ZIP: 99615
PHONE: 486-5956
BILL NO: SB 126

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS
MESSAGE: AM AN 11 YEAR RESIDENT WHO CAN BRING ADDITION OF FEDERAL MONEY TO
STATE VIA RETIREMENT INCOME AND STATE SHARING OF MY HIGH FEDERAL
TAX PAYMENTS. WITHOUT DENTAL CREDENTIALING I MUST LEAVE STATE.
LONGER DENTAL FEES FOR OUR RESIDENTS IS POSSIBLE WITH COMPETITION.
SUPPORT SB 126.

POMID: 09113819
DATE: 04/28/89
TIME: 11:38:19
LIONAME: KODIAK LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVE SENATORS

DAVIDSON	RODEY
	FAIKS
	KERTTULA
	COGHILL
	ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. R. MAYBERRY

TITLE:

ADDRESS: HCR 1116 SAWMILL CIRCLE

CITY: KODIAK

ZIP: 99615

PHONE: 486-6947

BILL NO: SB 126

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS

MESSAGE: I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT OF SB 126. PASSAGE OF THIS BILL WOULD INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF DENTAL CARE TO ALASKAN RESIDENTS AT A REASONABLE COST.

POMID: 09122104

DATE: 04/28/89

TIME: 12:21:04

LIONAME: KODIAK LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVE SENATORS

DAVIDSON

ZHAROFF

RODEY

FAIKS

KERTTULA

COGHILL

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: ED AND SHIRLEY SCHENDERLINE

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 540 WEST POTTER DRIVE

CITY: ANCHORAGE

ZIP: 99518

PHONE: 563-3108

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: RASPBERRY ROAD PROJECT

MESSAGE: I THINK SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE SO THAT THE LOCAL CONTRACTORS CAN PICK UP THESE JOBS. SMALLER CONTRACTORS CANNOT PICKUP THE BIG JOBS THE WAY THEY'VE WORKED OUT THIS PROJECT.

POMID: 03142420

DATE: 04/28/89

TIME: 14:24:20

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES

BOUCHER

ADAMS

BOYER

BROWN

BINKLEY

CATO

COLLINS

COGHILL

COTTEN

DAVIDSON

DUNCAN

DAVIS, C.

DAVIS, M.

FAHRENKAMP

DONLEY

ELLIS

FAIKS

FINKELSTEIN

FOSTER

FISCHER

FURNACE

GOLL

FRANK

GRUENBERG

GRUSSENDORF

HALFORD

HANLEY

HOFFMAN

JONES

HUDSON

JACKO

KELLY

KOPONEN

LARSON

KERTTULA

LEMAN

MACLEAN

PEARCE

MARTIN

MENARD

POURCHOT

MILLER

NAVARRE

RODEY

PETTYJOHN

PHILLIPS

STURGULEWSKI

RIEGER

SHARP

SZYMANSKI

SHULTZ

SHACKHAMMER

UEHLING

TAYLOR

ULNER

ZHAROFF

WALLIS

ZAWACKI

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: ROD MCCOY

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 7749 OLD HARBOR ROAD

CITY: ANCHORAGE

PHONE: 337-6138

ZIP: 99504

BILL NO: SB 15

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS BY PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

MESSAGE: PLEASE DON'T LET SB 15 BE HELD HOSTAGE BY THE AASB. THEY ARE NOT
SERIOUS ABOUT A FAIR COMPROMISE. NEA-ALASKA HAS PUT FORTH 3 DIFFERENT
PROPOSALS PLEASE MOVE ON ONE OF THEM NOW.

POMID: 03124808

DATE: 04/25/89

TIME: 12:48:08

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMANSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. JAMES E. BOWERS

TITLE: USA DENTAL CLINIC

ADDRESS: HSDX-DD-R

CITY: FT. RICHARDSON

PHONE: 862-0189

ZIP: 99505

BILL NO: SB 126

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS

MESSAGE: I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE FAVORABLE ON SB 126 ALLOWING FOR THE
LICENSURE OF QUALIFIED DENTIST THOUGH THE CREDENTIAL PROCESS. THIS BILL IS
LIKELY TO LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS AND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF DENTAL CARE
PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO ALASKANS. MOVE IT TO THE SENATE FLOOR NOW.

POMID: 03123608

DATE: 04/25/89

TIME: 12:36:08

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

HALFORD
RODEY
FAIKS
KERTTULA
COGHILL

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: PHILIP GAUS
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 19505 NORTH MONTAGUE LOOP
 CITY: EAGLE RIVER ZIP: 99577
 PHONE: 696-0242
 BILL NO: SB 126
 SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS
 MESSAGE: I'M AN AIR FORCE BOARD CERTIFIED ORAL SURGEON RECOGNISED AS COMPENTENT BY THE RIDGID STANDARDS OF AAOMS.I CAN'T GET AN AK LICENSE UNLESS I PROVE I CAN DO GENERAL DENISTRY. FARE? NO. THE AK DENTAL COMMUNITY OPPOSES FOR FEAR OF INCREASED COMPETION. COULD MEAN LOWER FEES. PLEASE SUPPORT SB 126.

POMID: 03091200
 DATE: 04/22/89
 TIME: 09:12:00
 LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

RODEY
 KERTTULA
 COGHILL
 HALFORD
 FAIKS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: CAROL DEPTULA
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 2571 LYVONA LANE
 CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99502
 PHONE: 248-5327
 BILL NO:
 SUBJECT: LAWS FOP JUVENILES.
 MESSAGE: WE NEED TOUGHER LAWS FOR JUVENILES . A CHILD THAT IS OLD ENOUGH TO GO TO OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS OLD ENOUGH TO EXCEPT RESPONSIBLITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS THE WAY OUR LAWS ARE NOW WE ARE SAYING IT'S OK TO STEAL AND EVEN MURDER AS LONG AS YOU AREN'T 12 YEARS OR 18 YEARS OLD.

POMID: 03091224
 DATE: 04/22/89
 TIME: 09:12:24
 LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
CATO	COLLINS	COGHILL
COTTEN	DAVYDSON	DUNCAN
DAVIS, C.	DAVIS, M.	FAHRENKAMP
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAIKS
FINKELSTEIN	FOSTER	FISCHER
FURNACE	GOLL	FRANK
GRUENBERG	GRUSSENDORF	HALFORD
HANLEY	HCOFFMAN	JONES
HUDSON	JACKO	KELLY
KOPONEN	LARSON	KERTTULA
LEMAN	MACLEAN	PEARCE
MARTIN	MENARD	POURCHOT
MILLER	NAVARRE	RODEY
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	STURGULEWSKI
RIEGER	SHARP	STYMANSKI
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. LES MILLAR
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 4551
CITY: EIELSON AFB ZIP: 99702
PHONE: 488-2610
BILL NO: SB 126

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS
MESSAGE: I'M A RESIDENT SINCE 1945, THE STATE OF AK SUPPORTED ME THROUGH DENTAL SCHOOL UNDER THE WICHE PROGRAM. I CURRENTLY HOLD DENTAL LICENSE AA00327. MILITARY DENTISTS ARE UNDER PEER REVIEW MUCH CLOSER THAN CIVILIANS, IT SEEMS ABSURD FOR THEM TO PERFORM REMEDIAL TASKS BY EXAMINATION, THEY SHOULD BE LICENSED BY CREDENTIALS. THANK YOU.

POMID: 07102232
DATE: 04/22/89
TIME: 10:22:32
LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

RODEY
KERTTULA
COGHILL
HALFORD

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: BETH BEHNER
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 3828 RANDOLPH ST. #2
CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99508
PHONE: 561-3150
BILL NO: HB 118

SUBJECT: OIL & GAS PROPERTIES PRODUCTION TAX-ELF
MESSAGE: REFORM ELF AND HAVE IT PROMPTLY MOVE OUT OF COMMITTEE AND PLACED UNDER GENUINE CONSIDERATION. LEGISLATORS SHOULD NOT BE ENTRENCHED IN PROMISES MADE DURING CAMPAIGNS, OR REMAIN TRUE TO ASSURANCES GIVEN TO BIG OIL CONTRIBUTORS. THEY SHOULD RATHER BE RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC ATTITUDES, WHICH HAVE DRAMATICALLY CHANGED TO FAVOR REFORM. A LEGISLATIVE REFUSAL TO REPEAL ELF WILL CONFIRM THE PERCEPTION THAT LEGISLATORS HAVE BEEN BOUGHT BY BIG OIL.

POMID: 03103119
DATE: 04/22/89
TIME: 10:31:19
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMAWSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: JERRY MURPHY
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 507 E 76TH
 CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99518
 PHONE: 344-4491
 BILL NO:
 SUBJECT: TAXATION
 MESSAGE: CUT TAXATION AND CUT SPENDING.

POMID: 03111552
 DATE: 04/22/89
 TIME: 11:15:52
 LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
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COTTEN	DAVIDSON	DUNCAN
DAVIS, C.	DAVIS, M.	FAHRENKAMP
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAIKS
FINKELSTEIN	FOSTER	FISCHER
FURNACE	GOLL	FRANK
GRUENBERG	GRUSSENDORF	HALFORD
HANLEY	HOFFMAN	JONES
HUDSON	JACKO	KELLY
KOPONEN	LARSON	KERTTULA
LEMAN	MACLEAN	PEARCE
MARTIN	MENARD	PJURCHOT
MILLER	NAVARRE	RODEY
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	STURGULEWSKI
RIEGER	SHARP	SZYMANSKI
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZANACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. LILLIAN INFANTINO
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 1737 UNIVERSITY AVE G57
 CITY: FAIRPANKS ZIP: 99709
 PHONE: 353-5135
 BILL NO: SB 126
 SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS
 MESSAGE: LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS FOR DENTIST IN ALASKA IS REQUESTED. IT
 BENEFIT AND ALLOW QUALIFIED DENTISTS TO PROVIDE IMPROVED QUALITY DENTAL CARE
 WITH REASONABLE COSTS. IT MAY ENCOURAGE MILITARY DENTISTS TO RETIRE IN ALASKA
 AND PROVIDE THEIR EXPERIENCE DENTAL SERVICES. THANK YOU. EOM/CLS

POMID: 07104106
 DATE: 04/22/89
 TIME: 10:41:06
 LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

RODEY
 KERTTULA
 COGHILL
 HALFORD

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: BONNIE HERBERT

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 18126 MISTY FALLS CIRCLE

CITY: EAGLE RIVER

ZIP: 99577

PHONE: 694-7581

BILL NO: SB 126

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS

MESSAGE: THIS BILL HAS BEEN MANIPULATED BY PAID LOBEYISTS. IT SEEMS, RIGHT OR WRONG, MONEY HAS CONTROLLED THE WAY SOME HAVE FELT ABOUT THE WAY DENTISTS SHOULD BE LICENSED. TO MAKE THE SYSTEM MORE FAIR, PLEASE PASS THIS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

POMID: 03152008

DATE: 04/21/89

TIME: 15:20:08

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

RODEY
KERTTULA
COGHILL
HALFORD

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DEBORAH MILLER (SIC)

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 13201 WESTWIND DRIVE

CITY: ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ZIP: 99516

PHONE: 345-3890

BILL NO: HB 118

SUBJECT: OIL & GAS PROPERTIES PRODUCTION TAX-ELF

MESSAGE: I URGE YOU TO VOTE AGAINST HB 118. I FEEL PASSAGE OF THIS BILL WOULD DISCOURAGE FURTHER ECONOMIC GROWTH. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

POMIO: 03152319

DATE: 04/21/89

TIME: 15:23:19

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

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DAVIS, C.	DAVIS, M.	FAHRENKAMP
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAKS
FINKELSTEIN	FOSTER	FISCHER
FURNACE	GOLL	FRANK
GRUENBERG	GRUSSENDORF	HALFORD
HANLEY	HOFFMAN	JONES
HUDSON	JACKO	KELLY
KOPONEN	LARSON	KERTTULA
LEMAN	MACLEAN	PEARCE
MARTIN	MENARD	POURCHOT
MILLER	NAVARRE	RODEY
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	STURGULEWSKI
RIEGER	SHARP	SZYMANSKI
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. DALE SCHUTTE
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 13241 VERN DRIVE
 CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99516
 PHONE: 345-7505
 BILL NO: SB 126
 SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS
 MESSAGE: STRONGLY ENDORSE PASSAGE OF SENATE 126. I AM A BOARD CERTIFIED ORAL
 SURGEON CURRENTLY LICENSED IN MISSOURI. I AM ALSO AN ALASKAN RESIDENT, RESIDING
 IN STATE. CURRENT DENTAL LICENSURE PRACTICE IS EXTREMELY ANTIQUATED AND
 CUMBERSOME. PASSAGE OF BILL WOULD ENHANCE QUALITY OF DENTAL CARE FOR ALL ALASKA.

POMID: 03115615
 DATE: 04/22/89
 TIME: 11:56:15
 LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

KERTTULA
 RODEY
 HALFORD
 COGHILL

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: URSULA WING
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 820 SMYTHE STREET
 CITY: FAIRBANKS ZIP: 99701
 PHONE: 456-8999
 BILL NO:
 SUBJECT: ELF
 MESSAGE: YES ON THE ELF.

POMID: 03120514
 DATE: 04/22/89
 TIME: 12:05:14
 LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
CATO	COLLINS	COGHILL
COTTEN	DAVIDSON	DUNCAN
DAVIS, C.	DAVIS, M.	FAHRENKAMP
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAIKS
FINKELSTEIN	FOSTER	FISCHER
FURNACE	GOLL	FRANK
GRUENBERG	GRUSSENDORF	HALFORD
HANLEY	HCCFFMAN	JONES
HUDSON	JACKO	KELLY
KOPONEN	LARSON	KERTTULA
LEMAN	MACLEAN	PEARCE
MARTIN	MENARD	POURCHOT
MILLER	NAVARRE	RODEY
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	STURGULEWSKI
RIEGER	SHARP	SZYMANSKI
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULNER	ZHAPOFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DP. FRED NOLAN
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 4505 EIELSON
CITY: EIELSON AFB
PHONE: 488-7195
BILL NO: SB 126

ZIP: 99702

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS
MESSAGE: I AM STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF SB 126. IT IS OBVIOUS STATE DENTIST ARE PROTECTING THEIR TURF. WHEN THE ONLY ORTHODONTIST IN FBKS. NEEDED HELP HE OBTAINED HIS ASSOCIATE THROUGH THE CREDENTIAL PROCESS WHICH PROVES THAT HE USED THIS PROCESS TO KEEP THE BUSINESS IN FAIRBANKS, AND IT WAS APPROVED BY THE ST. BOARD AT THAT TIME. MOST AK. DENTIST ARE HERE FORMALLY FEDERALLY EMPLOYED THESE HERE ARE INORDINATELY HIGH. SPECIALIST SHOULD BE CREDITIALLY CHOSEN.

POMID: 07091309
DATE: 04/22/89
TIME: 09:13:09
LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

KODEY
KERTTULA
COGHILL
HALFORD

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. DONALD DENUCCI
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2441 HASTINGS LANE
CITY: ANCHORAGE
PHONE: 337-1574
BILL NO: SB 126

ZIP: 99504

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS
MESSAGE: I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE FAVORABLY ON SB 9126 ALLOWING FOR TI LICENSURE OF QUALIFIED DENTIST THROUGH THE CREDENTIALS PROCESS. THIS BILL IS LIKELY TO LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS AND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF DENTAL CARE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO ALASKANS. MOVE IT TO THE SENATE FLOOR NOW.

POMID: 03100511
DATE: 04/22/89
TIME: 10:05:11
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

HALFORD
RODEY
FAIKS
KERTTULA
COGHILL

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. PHIL DOLEAC
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 616 WAINWRIGHT RD.
CITY: F.W.W. ZIP: 99703
PHONE: 356-3010
BILL NO: SB 126
SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS
MESSAGE: I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 126, LICENSING BY CREDIALLING. I FEEL IT WILL
PROVIDE IMPROVED DENTAL CARE AND MORE COMPETATIVE PRICES FOR THE PUBLIC.
EOM/CLS

POMID: 07091342
DATE: 04/22/89
TIME: 09:13:42
LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

RODEY
KERTTULA
COGHILL
HALFORD

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. MIKE KULIKOWSKI
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2013 30TH AVE
CITY: FAIRBANKS ZIP: 99701
PHONE: 456-1444
BILL NO: SB 126
SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS
MESSAGE: SUPPORT SB 126, AMENDING DENTAL LICENSER BY CREDENTIALS, ESSENTIAL TO
PUBLICS AVAILABILITY TO CARE THAT THEY DESERVE. FAILURE IS CRIMINAL RESTRAINT
OF TRADE PERPETUATING THE "CLOSED SHOP". SELF PROTECTION, PUBLIC PROTECTION
STATE DENTAL SOCIETY/BOARD. ASA BOARD CERTIFIED SURGEON, I CAN NOT LEGALLY
PRACTICE GENERAL DENTISTRY BUT MUST DO GENERAL DENTISTRY ON STATE BOARD EXAM,
TO GET LICENSE. MORE COMPETITION = FOR/CHEAPER CARE. EOM/CLS

POMID: 07101506
DATE: 04/22/89
TIME: 10:15:06
LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BOYER	RODEY
DAVIS, M.	KERTTULA
KOPONEN	COGHILL
MILLER	HALFORD
SHARP	FAHRENKAMP
	FRANK

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: WILLIAM E DINSE
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 3866 BLESSING AVE.
CITY: NORTH POLE
PHONE: 377-4011

ZIP: 99705

BILL NO: SB 126

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS

MESSAGE: I SUPPORT DENTAL LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. I UNDERSTAND SB 126 IS STALLED IN COMMITTEE AND I URGE YOU TO HELP PUSH IT TOWARDS A VOTE. PHYSICIANS ARE LICENSED BY CREDENTIALS AND DENTISTS SHOULD BE ALSO. IT WOULD ALLOW GREATER FREEDOM FOR DENTISTS IN AK., AND WOULD BETTER SERVE ALASKANS BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PRACTICING DENTISTS THEREBY CREATING MARKET PRESSURE, IN TURN QUALITY OF CARE WOULD GO UP AND THE COST OF DENTAL CARE WOULD MOST LIKELY DECREASE.

POMID: 07130253

DATE: 04/22/89

TIME: 13:02:53

LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

RODEY
COGHILL
HALFORD
KERTTULA

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. BARRY BARRUS
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 5281 F COMMAN DRIVE
CITY: EIELSON AFB
PHONE: 372-3362

ZIP: 99712

BILL NO: SB 126

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS

MESSAGE: I AM A SPECIALIST IN PEDIACTRIC DENTISTRY, I HAVE SERVED TWO TOURS AT EIELSON & I AM IN MY TENTH YEAR. I AM A STATE RESIDENT, I EXPRESS SUPPCRT FOR SB 126 WHICH ALLOWS DENTISTS THE RIGHT TO STATE LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS - A PRIVILEGE ENJOYED BY OTHER PROFESSIONS. PLEASE HELP THIS BILL MOVE OUT OF COMMITTEE AND PASS. THANK YOU. EOM/CLS

POMID: 07141444

DATE: 04/22/89

TIME: 14:14:44

LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

RODEY
KERTTULA
COGHILL
HALFORD

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: DR. RONALD ENG

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 2740 KINGSBRIDGES CIRCLE

CITY: ANCHORAGE

PHONE: 333-7727

ZIP: 99504

BILL NO: SB 126

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS

MESSAGE: I AM EXTREMELY DISTRESSED THAT THE BILL HAS BEEN STALLED IN COMMITTEE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. I AM AWARE THIS IS THE WORK OF A SENATOR AND A PAID LOBBYIST. I FEEL THAT THE EXISTING REGULATIONS VIOLATE THE INTENT OF THE STATE LAW AND THESE INDIVIDUALS EITHER BY INTENT OR EGOGRANCE ARE OBSTRUCTING THE LAW. I WOULD STRONGLY URGE YOUR PROMPT ACTION.

POMID: 03112700

DATE: 04/22/89

TIME: 11:27:00

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

KERTTULA
RODEY
COGHILL
HALFORD

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ELIASON

NAME: WILLIAM AMSBERRY

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 2430 HASTINGS LANE

CITY: ANCHORAGE

PHONE: 338-1823

ZIP: 99504

BILL NO: SB 126

SUBJECT: DENTAL LICENSING BY CREDENTIALS

MESSAGE: I URGE YOU TO VOTE IN A FAVORABLE MANNER ON SB 126. THIS BILL IS LIKELY TO LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS WITHOUT A DECREASE IN THE QUALITY OF DENTAL CARE FOR ALASKANS. MOVE IT TO THE SENATE FLOOR NOW.

POMID: 03115154

DATE: 04/22/89

TIME: 11:50:54

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

HALFORD
RODEY
FAIKS
KERTTULA
COGHILL

4230 Pinnacle Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
January 29, 1989

Senator Rick Halford
Alaska State Senate
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Halford,

As a resident of the State of Alaska, I am delighted to hear of the legislation you introduced, which if passed, would allow qualified dentists to be licensed by credentials. I have long felt a concern, shared by many Alaskans, over the extraordinary cost for dental services in this state. These high costs are the result of a highly restrictive policy on dental licensure which, in effect controls on the number of dentists practicing in Alaska.

The purpose of professional licensure is to assure quality among Alaska dentists. The current regulation governing licensure requires dentists to pass a time-consuming and expensive examination, unique to Alaska and a few associated states, before an Alaska dental license can be granted. I understand that the new legislation would allow Alaska licensure to be granted to dentists who have proven their qualifications through equally demanding examinations and licensure in other states. I am certain that this change of regulation would bring additional dentists to our state, increasing the availability of dentistry and decreasing the prohibitive prices, while maintaining the same high standards of dental care.

I want to assure you that I strongly support your efforts on behalf of this important legislation; legislation which will benefit all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Matthews
Robert S. Matthews

RECEIVED

FEB 2 1989

OFFICE OF
SENATOR RICK HALFORD

JAN 6 9 1989

1-12-89

2441 Hastings Lane
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
December 19, 1988

Senator Rick Halford
Alaska State Senate
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Halford,

The cost of health care is too high in Alaska. The State, the Unions, and the School Districts are all paying too much for health care. In this period of fiscal austerity, it is imperative that these costs be reduced.

I am a resident of Alaska employed by the Federal Government to provide dental care at Ft. Richardson. Many of our army family members have federal dental insurance and utilize local dentists in Anchorage and Eagle River. I have observed that even with federal dental insurance, many of the Army family members can't afford to pay for basic dental care in Alaska. The fees that I hear quoted seem very high relative to the rest of the nation. Certainly Alaska is an expensive place to live but these fees seem to be out of line.

After an investigation, I have concluded the following:

-Dentistry enjoys a near monopoly in Alaska resulting in fee structures which are in essence resistant to market forces.

-Licensing procedures and the state board of dental examiners support this monopoly through a restrictive licensing process.

-Action by the Governor and the legislature in the past have failed to remedy this situation.

This situation can be corrected through legislative action. The legislature must see that AS 08.36.234 allowing licensure by credentials is reimplemented. Regulation ACC 28.950 must be rescinded. These actions will have the following immediate effects:

- Allow more qualified dental practitioners to be licensed in the state thus increasing competition for health care funds and reducing costs to the public.

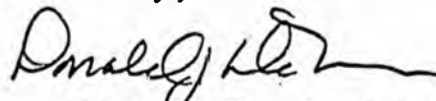
- Improve the quality of care available through the licensure of qualified specialists in dentistry who are presently not well represented in the population of dental care providers.

- Allow for alternative forms of dental health care delivery such as HMOs which again will further reduce health care costs.

The State Board of Dental Examiners presently makes a number of claims regarding licensure which are at best unfounded. They claim that they can't verify credentials and that there is no support for licensure by credentials. Both claims are absolutely false. Furthermore for a dental specialist who is an Alaska Resident residing in state, obtaining a license requires that the applicant fly 3 patients and himself to the lower 48 to be tested on procedures which are not relevant to a specialty practice. The time and financial costs are astronomical and absolutely prohibitive. The Western Regional Dental Board is not a viable alternative for a dental specialist residing in Alaska. (Also compare the number of physicians with the number of dentists who were newly licensed over the past year. You will see that it is much less difficult to obtain a medical license in Alaska.)

As a voting resident of Alaska, I ask that you take the time to investigate this issue and take it before the next legislative session. I am certain that you will also conclude that now is the time to take action to reduce the cost of health care for Alaskans. Streamlining the dental licensure process will allow more qualified dental specialists to provide an increased scope of high quality dental care at a significantly reduced cost. Now is the time to implement licensure by credentials for qualified dental specialists.

Sincerely,



Donald J. DeNucci, D.D.S.

Enclosures:

Prior letter to your office on this issue.
Your response to that letter.

February 2, 1989

Jason M. Rampton, D.M.D.
9711 Takli Circle
Eagle River, AK 99577

RECEIVED

1989

OFFICE OF
SENATOR RICK HALFORD

Senator Rick Halford
Alaska State Senate
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Halford,

It has been brought to my attention that a bill dealing with a revision in the Alaska Dental Practice Act was introduced on 18 January 1989. It is my understanding that this bill will mandate that the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners license dentists through the credentials process. If this bill is passed and written into law it would tremendously benefit the State of Alaska for the following reasons.

1) There is a great need for dentists in the smaller communities in the state. For example, the King Salmon/Nak Nak area has no resident dentist. If a person has a sudden dental emergency he would be forced to fly to Anchorage for treatment, which is costly and time-consuming. If this bill were passed it would give these newly licensed dentists the opportunity to serve in these rural areas. I would gladly set up a dental practice in King Salmon after I retire from the Air Force Dental Corp.

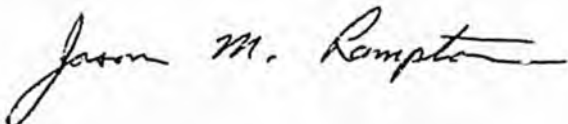
2) I have been practicing dentistry for 8 years in the military, and I am licensed to practice in several states. I have passed the National Board Examinations. In March of 1985 I passed the Western Regional Board examination. Alaska joined the Western Regional Dental Board in January of 1987. I have petitioned Dr. Bob Warren, President of the Alaska State Board of dental examiners to allow me licensure. He would not. As the law now stands, I would have to retake the Western Regional Board examination again in order to get an Alaskan license.

3) Several states allow dental licensing by credentials. If I wanted to practice dentistry in Philadelphia all that is required is documentation of my earned credentials and I would be granted a license in Pennsylvania.

4) By making it easier to obtain a license in Alaska there would also be more competition bringing down the cost of dental care for all Alaskans.

For the above reasons I highly recommend that you support this bill.

Sincerely,



Jason M. Rampton, D.M.D.

4230 Pinnacle Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
January 29, 1989

Senator Dick Eliason
Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Senate
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

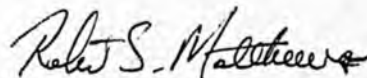
Dear Senator Eliason,

As a resident of the State of Alaska, I am delighted to hear that legislation is now before your committee, which if passed, would allow qualified dentists to be licensed by credentials. I have long felt a concern, shared by many Alaskans, over the extraordinary cost for dental services in this state. These high costs are the result of a highly restrictive policy on dental licensure which, in effect controls the number of dentists practicing in Alaska.

The purpose of professional licensure is to assure quality among Alaska dentists. The current regulation governing licensure requires dentists to pass a time-consuming and expensive examination, unique to Alaska and a few associated states, before an Alaska dental license can be granted. The new legislation would allow Alaska licensure to be granted to dentists who have proven their qualifications through equally demanding examinations and licensure in other states. I am certain that this change of regulation would bring additional dentists to our state, increasing the availability of dentistry and decreasing the prohibitive prices, while maintaining the same high standards of dental care.

I strongly urge you and your committee to support this legislation for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Robert S. Matthews

2441 Hastings Lane
Anchorage, Alaska 99504
January 24, 1989

Senator Dick Eliason
Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Senate
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Eliason,

As an Alaskan dentist, I was delighted to hear that legislation has recently been introduced into your committee that will permit the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners to license qualified dentists through the credentials process.

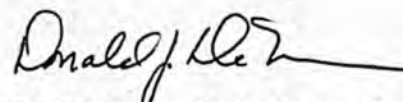
This legislation introduced by Senator Halford will mean increased access for Alaskans to the comprehensive dental services that they deserve. It will also result in reduced future costs for dental health care for individuals as well as for insured state employees.

This legislation will most certainly mean increased access to comprehensive dental health care especially in many of the dental specialty areas. For example, the city of Fairbanks has never had a resident Periodontist. This means that the residents of Fairbanks desiring to have periodontal (gum) treatment must now rely on the part time services of a specialist from Anchorage or may even have to commute to Anchorage for treatment. This is obviously unacceptable since periodontal disease is the most prevalent form of dental disease and left undetected and untreated frequently results in the loss of teeth.

The economic advantages of this legislation are also significant. With increased competition and the evolution of alternative forms of dental health care delivery such as the HMO, the cost of dental care is likely to be reduced. This will be especially important to state employees as they attempt to negotiate for health care benefits in an era when insurance carriers are determined to cut costs.

I urge your support and that of your committee for this important legislation which will provide improved dental health care for Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Donald J. DeNucci, D.D.S.