

May 30, 2025

Chair Fabian Doñate
Nevada Senate Health and Human Services Committee
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Chair Doñate and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) represents 40,000 general dentists around the country and the Nevada Academy of General Dentistry represents 191 general dentists in Nevada. We write to oppose Sections 77-79 of SB 495 that will allow the Nevada Board of Dentistry to create an alternate pathway to licensure for dental hygienists in addition to graduation from a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited hygiene program.

The AGD is appreciative of the realization of the workforce shortage of dental team members in Nevada. However, we believe that proper education of dental team members is crucial to delivering high quality oral health care to the citizens of Nevada. AGD policy states that "dental hygiene education should remain under the purview of and be accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation."

The Nevada legislature can address the dental hygiene workforce shortage by appropriating funds to help increase the number of students that can be trained at the College of Southern Nevada and Truckee Meadows Community College, encouraging the UNLV School of Dental Medicine to establish a hygiene program, and attracting other educational institutions to set up programs in Nevada.

Again, we thank the legislature for its interest in addressing the dental workforce issue, but feel that Sections 77-79 of SB 495 is not in the best interests of the citizens of Nevada and kindly request that you remove those sections.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chethan Chetty'.

Chethan Chetty, DDS, MAGD
President
Academy of General Dentistry

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph A. Wineman'.

Joseph A. Wineman, DMD, ABGD
President
Nevada Academy of General Dentistry