

To: **Nevada Joint Health and Human Services Committee Members**  
[senhhs@sen.state.nv.us](mailto:senhhs@sen.state.nv.us)

From:

Date:

Re: Opposition to Sections 77-79 of SB 495

As a licensed dental hygienist and supporter of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA), I strongly urge you to strike sections 77-79 in Nevada SB 495. These sections direct the Nevada Board of Dental Examiners to create an alternative training pathway for dental hygiene licensure. Specifically, this measure permits individuals to complete a course of training under the supervision of a licensed dentist—essentially, on-the-job training. This shortcut to licensure bypasses the critical education provided by CODA-accredited dental hygiene programs.

I believe this bill poses a significant risk to public health and safety by offering a substandard approach to addressing workforce shortages. It also introduces potential inconsistencies in training and undermines public confidence and trust in healthcare providers.

Dental hygienists are clinically trained healthcare professionals who must complete nearly 3,000 hours of education and training. This includes graduating from a CODA-accredited (Commission on Dental Accreditation) program, passing a standardized national written exam, completing a clinical competency exam, and passing a jurisprudence exam. Sections 77-79 would dismantle these critical safeguards and threaten the integrity and professional excellence of the dental hygiene profession.

I urge you to uphold the standards that protect patients and ensure that anyone seeking to practice dental hygiene in Nevada meets the educational and licensure requirements established by the state board. Please strike Sections 77–79 from SB 495! Allowing on-the-job training to replace accredited education sets a dangerous precedent and compromises the quality of patient care.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to protecting the oral health of the public!