

**June 19, 2025**

The Honorable Senator Warren Petersen  
President  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Senator Thomas “T.J.”  
Shope  
President Pro Tempore  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Senator Janae Shamp  
Majority Leader  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Senator Frank Carroll  
Majority Whip  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Senator Flavio Bravo  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Senator Priya Sundareshan  
Minority Leader  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Senator Rosanna Gabaldon  
Minority Whip  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Senator Catherine Miranda  
Assistant Minority Leader  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Senator Lela Alston  
Minority Caucus Chair  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Senator David Farnsworth  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Re: SB 1037 - A Bill Relating to Health Profession Regulatory Boards and Other Licensing Authorities.**

Dear Senate Leadership and Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

On behalf of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA), I am writing to express our strong opposition to the amended version of **Senate Bill 1037**, which now threatens the quality and integrity of oral health education and treatment in Arizona.

As you may know, SB 1124 is a recently passed law that allows Dental Assistants to practice as Oral Preventive Assistants (OPAs) and initially required students to attend a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) institution. However, an amendment to SB 1037—recently passed by the House—now permits Dental Assistants seeking to practice as OPAs to attend any licensed private postsecondary educational institution

that meets minimal criteria, rather than adhering to CODA accreditation standards. This change opens the door for non-CODA-accredited programs to train OPA students, lowering educational standards and jeopardizing patient safety.

We are particularly concerned that this amendment was heavily influenced by lobbying from for-profit private dental assisting schools, prioritizing financial interests over the public's oral health. CODA standards exist to ensure consistency, safety, and competence in dental care. Circumventing these standards undermines the profession and endangers the communities we serve.

With the legislative session ending on June 30, we urge you and your colleagues to reject the amended SB 1037 and stand with Arizona's oral health professionals, educators, and patients. Allowing this bill to move forward would erode public trust in dental education and care and could set a dangerous precedent for lowering professional standards statewide.

We respectfully request that the Senate refuse to concur with the House amendments and take immediate action to stop SB 1037 in its tracks. Maintaining high-quality, accredited education is not only essential for Arizona's workforce, but critical to the health and safety of its residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Erin Haley-Hitz, RDH, BSDH, MS, FADHA, MAADH, President

cc: Lancette VanGuilder, Lancette VanGuilder, BS, RDH, PHEDH, CEAS, FADHA, President-Elect

Jennifer Hill, Interim ADHA Chief Executive Officer

JoAnn Gurenlian, RDH, MS, PhD, AAFAAOM, FADHA, Director, Education, Research & Advocacy