

OPPOSE HB4501

This Bill Would Make Two Main Changes to the Dental Practice Act:

1. This Bill Would **REMOVE Teledentistry** from Dental Hygienists' **Current Scope of Practice**

Teledentistry is currently used by dental hygienists in Illinois. This bill changes the definition *to provide that a person who uses teledentistry is considered to practice dentistry under the Act*. That means only dentists would be able to use teledentistry. An off-site dental hygienist would no longer be able to communicate with a dentist on the other end. Illinois dental hygienists and public health dental hygienists currently use teledentistry to communicate with their supervising dentist when providing preventive oral care at off-site locations. Off-site locations include federal, state and local public health facilities, school based health and dental centers, hospitals, FQHCs, prisons, residents of special needs and long-term care communities, public health medical and dental centers, Head Start, and Women's Infants and Children's programs. This bill could hinder preventive oral care delivered in such settings decreasing access to oral care. Supporters of this bill say the opposite.

2. This Bill Would **REMOVE Licensure Requirements** for Providers Treating Children and Adults

This bill would allow on-the-job-trained dental assistants to provide licensed dental provider-level care to children and adults without a high school or college education or a license to practice. Supporters say allowing dental assistants to scale is needed because a 2021 ADA study found dentists have 3% more difficulty hiring dental hygienists than dental assistants.

The "approved training" would consist of an on-the-job-trained dental assistant completing a two-day weekend course practicing on a mouth model. This "approved training" could not prepare anyone to safely provide oral care services. Dental assistants typically begin their careers as high school students, learn on-the-job, and do not attend college. Dental assistants are not required to complete an intense CODA-accredited dental hygiene program, pass national or multiple state board examinations, take continuing education courses, nor to be monitored or regulated by the Board of Dentistry, as are college-educated Registered Dental Hygienists licensed to provide oral care for children and adults. Dental assistants should not perform license-level oral care!

The Illinois State Dental Society introduced this bill to remove teledentistry from dental hygienists' current scope of practice and allow on-the-job trained dental assistants to provide license-level patient care. This bill suggests 16 clock hours of training would make dental assistants proficient to treat children and adults. This bill would set a dangerous precedent for Illinois! Illinois residents deserve quality oral healthcare provided by college educated licensed providers! This bill is unconscionable and dangerous! See the *RDH/DA Education Comparison* next page.

This bill is promoted as a *Teledentistry Bill* to increase access to care. However, it instead removes teledentistry from licensed dental hygienists' current scope of practice. These bills would further limit access to care and permit the delivery of substandard oral care. Would you want this oral "care" for yourself or your family?

This Bill Would Decrease Access to Care and Allow Substandard Oral Care!
Please OPPOSE HB4501!

IDHA Legislative Chair: Laura Baus mail@idha.net
IDHA Lobbyist: Jan Starr jstarr@csc-llc.com

RDH/DA Didactic and Clinical Education Comparison Table

Certified Dental Assistant Program info. from Elgin Community College Website based on a 16 week semester
 CODA Accredited Dental Hygiene Program info. from College of DuPage Website based on a 16 week semester
 CODA Accredited Dental Hygiene Program info. from SIU Website based on a 16-week Semester

<https://elgin.edu/academics/departments/dental-assisting/> <https://cod.edu/academics/programs/dental/index.aspx>

<https://catalog.siu.edu/programs/dh/requirements.php>

Program Type	Credit Hours	Program Length	Clinical Contact Hours in a Higher Learning Facility	Clinical Observation Hours	On The Job Training Hours	Required Completed Clinical Patients Completed	Clinical Assessments Completed by Calibrated Faculty Following CODA Standards	Total Program Contact Hours	CODA Accredited	Board Exam	Degree Awarded
Associate Degree	60	4 Semesters	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	960	No	N/A	AS
Bachelor's Degree	120	8 Semesters	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	1920	No	N/A	BA/BS
AAS CODA Dental Hygiene Program	82	2 Pre-Requisite Semesters Plus 5 Program Semesters	864	0	0	50 Minimum Sub/Supra Scaling Patients Completed	Yes	1694	Yes	NBDH CDCA-WREB Clinic and Exam	AAS and Certificate
B.S. CODA Dental Hygiene Program	120	2 Pre-Requisite Semesters Plus 6 Program Semesters	1664	0	0	42 Minimum Sub/Supra Scaling Patients Completed	Yes	2713	Yes	NBDH CDCA-WREB Clinic and Exam	BSDH and Certificate
CODA Certified Dental Assistant Program	41.5	3 Program Semesters	0	336	0	Written Evaluation from Participating Dental Office	No	824	Yes	DANB	Certificate
ISDS Proposed: Expanded Functions Dental Assistant	0	1 Weekend Non-Credit Continuing Education Class	8	0	2000 Work Hours Prior to Scaling Class	6 Coronal Scaling Patients Completed	No	16	No	N/A	Certificate

CODA Accredited DH and DA Programs Require a Clinical Faculty to Student Ratio of 1:5.

CODA Accredited DH and DA Programs Require Compliance to 60 Standardized Program Criteria.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) serves the public and profession by developing and implementing accreditation standards that promote and monitor the continuous quality and improvement of dental education programs.

Information Gathered by Lori Drummer, RDH, PHDH, M. Ed., Ed. M.

Professor / Program Chair

Dental Hygiene Program

College of DuPage