

Talking Points for Dental Hygienists Day on the Hill

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

- Dental Hygienists in Iowa provide vitally important oral health services that help improve the quality of life of all Iowans.
- As part of their role in the oral health process, dental hygienists work closely with dentists and other health professionals to identify oral health issues facing their patients. It is important for Iowa law to recognize this role, and eliminate barriers to dental hygienists providing services to the fullest extent of their training.
- The Iowa Dental Hygienist Association works in partnership with the Iowa Dental Association, the Iowa Dental Board, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and other stakeholders to identify those barriers and collaboratively work to remove them.
- According to the most recent numbers (2018) from the Iowa Dental Board, there are over 2600 licensed dental hygienists in the state of Iowa.
- Dental hygienists work in dental offices but also in schools and other public health locations to help Iowans receive cleanings and other preventative oral health services.
- During the 2020 legislative session, the Iowa Dental Hygienists Association is working on the following legislation:
 - IDHA supports both House File 2267 and Senate File 2233, bills which remove barriers to practice for both Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants. Both of these bills were approved unanimously by committees in the House and Senate, are supported by all oral health stakeholders, and expected to be debated during the 2020 legislative session.
 - IDHA supports an amendment to Senate File 438 which would assure that Iowa schoolchildren are able to receive a dental screening in a school setting. This amendment has been agreed to by all stakeholders, and is expected to be added to this bill when it is considered in the House Education Committee before March 20th (the second funnel deadline).
 - IDHA is closing monitoring legislation proposed by Governor Reynolds (SSB 3122 and HSB 647) to make it easier for a person who is licensed in another state to get licensed in the same profession if they move to Iowa. IDHA wants to make sure that these licensees have the same education and skill level as Iowa licensed dental hygienists.