



CALIFORNIA  
**DENTAL ASSISTANTS**  
ASSOCIATION

May 18, 2023

Dr Tracy Montez  
Executive Officer, Dental Board of California  
2005 Evergreen Street, Ste 1550  
Sacramento, CA 95815

RE: BPC Section 1742 Regarding Dental Assisting Council

Dear Dr Montez:

It is with great concern that we write this **letter of opposition** to the legislative proposal as presented by the Board to repeal BPC Section 1742 regarding the Dental Assisting Council. This proposal would eliminate the current Council structure. The legislature enacted 1740 and 1742 to ensure that not only were dental assistants fully utilized, but they had the ability for continual advancement and that the recommendations of the Dental Assisting Council would be given specific consideration as they perform their duties as a Council. Their duties are broad and represent over 30,000 licensed and/or permitted assistants as well as the unlicensed dental assistants. Hence, those appointed to the Council reflect the stakeholders, with a breadth of experience and education so that all are adequately represented.

While we understand that arranging for Council meetings, travel, and meeting materials can be burdensome and costly, we believe it is the charge of the Board to do so. The solutions proposed to the removal of the DAC include:

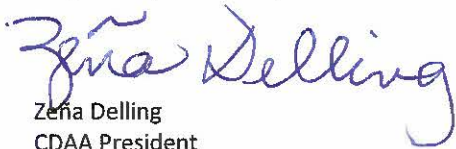
- Replacing one dentist member with an assistant on the Board
- Creation of a two-person Dental Assisting Committee

However, replacing one dentist member with an assistant on the Board is still inadequate representation given that there would be seven dentists and two assistants. The ratio of representatives on the Board does not align with those they are representing. **We support the addition of two dental assisting members to the Dental Board.**

The current DAC members are representing the on-the-job trained assistants, educational program assistants, RDAs, RADEFs as well as OAPs, DSAs as well as educators and the educational programs. The current composition (in addition to the RDA Board member) is two faculty members and three who are working clinically with one of them an RDAEF. This variety (provided by the six members) of experience, background and education of those on the current DAC cannot be replicated with a 2-person committee as proposed. Two people will not have the experience to speak for all these groups. Additionally, we believe that a two-person committee will decrease the level of transparency that has been created at the Board. **We strongly oppose the elimination of the DAC.**

We do not believe the mission of the council can be achieved with this proposal. We also believe that the issues presented by the Board can be resolved with dialogue and input from the stakeholders and is important to do given the number of people's interests that are at stake. Please let us know how we can help in that process. If you have questions or need clarification, I can be reached at [president@cdaaweb.org](mailto:president@cdaaweb.org).

Respectfully submitted,

  
Zenia Delling  
CDAA President