

January 28, 2021

New Jersey State Board of Dentistry  
PO Box 45005  
Newark, NJ 07101

Dear Board President Dr. Goldstein and Members of the Board;

On behalf of the American Dental Hygienists' Association – New Jersey (ADHA-NJ) I would like to respectfully call upon the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry to establish an Advisory Committee that would advise and make recommendations to the Board on various aspects of the education and practice of dental auxiliaries. Said advisory committee would be comprised of dental hygienists, registered dental assistants, limited registered dental assistants and dental assistants.

Under existing law, the Board has the authority to establish such an advisory committee. Specifically, NJSA 45:6-50 (Additional powers, duties of board) section f, grants the Board the power and duty:

- f. To establish and recognize councils and committee which may advise and make recommendations to the board on various aspects of the education and practice for dental hygienists, registered dental assistants, limited registered dental assistants or dental assistants;

Such an advisory committee is not unusual. Twenty states, including California, Connecticut, Delaware, and Maryland, have similar committees established through statute or regulations.

The Board will benefit by having an organized group of dental professionals who can assist the Board on issues related to the practice, education, examination and licensure of dental hygienists and dental assistants.

As the Board considers this request, we would like to suggest that any advisory committee established by the Board be chaired by the Dental Hygienist currently serving as a Board member and that the Board seek recommendations from the ADHA-NJ for other members of the committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to direct any questions you may have to our Legislative Agent, Paul Bent, who can be reached at (609) 747-8583.

Sincerely,

*Kim Attanasi, PhD, MS, RDH*

Kim Attanasi, PhD, MS, RDH  
President