



July 13, 2021

The Honorable Phil Murphy  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

On behalf of the American Dental Hygienists' Association – New Jersey (ADHA-NJ) I would like to respectfully ask that you consider issuing a Conditional Veto on A-5212 (Conaway). This legislation, which is now on your desk, will permit dentists to administer vaccines under certain circumstances.

Despite our efforts to work with the sponsors, we feel this legislation is seriously flawed. While we have no doubt about a dentist's ability to administer these vaccines, the bill fails to allow dentists to delegate this duty to a registered dental hygienist (RDH) who has a local anesthesia permit. RDH's with this permit are more than qualified to assess the patient, administer the vaccine, and handle any adverse reactions that may occur.

It is important to note that the bill goes beyond COVID-19 vaccines and includes the Influenza and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. By allowing RDHs to administer these vaccines at the direction of a dentist the state will be able to utilize a broader dental work force and have a greater impact on promoting public health.

Research shows that seventy percent of oropharyngeal cancers are caused by oncogenic strains of HPV and that vaccinating eligible individuals is key in preventing oropharyngeal malignancy of infectious origin.

RDHs are essential members of the health care team and an underutilized health care work force. RDHs were authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccines under DCA Administrative Order No. 2021-07 and DCA Waiver No. 2021-03. The results demonstrated that Dental Hygienists are well trained and well positioned to assume a greater role in promoting public health.

There is no question that RDHs with a local anesthesia permit are more than qualified and we would respectfully ask that you **Conditionally Veto A-5212** to include language allowing a dentist to delegate this duty to such an RDH.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request. Should you have any questions we would kindly ask that you contact Paul Bent at (609) 747-8583.

Sincerely,

*Kim Attanasi*

Kim Attanasi, PhD, MS, RDH  
President