

Murdo, Patricia

From: Clancy Casey [mailto:clancy.casey@mt.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 3:05 PM
To: Murdo, Patricia

Chairman Berry and Members of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Please vote to allow the dental hygienists in Montana to regulate their own profession. As a hygienist we are licensed professionals who are being held back by our employers to perform the tasks we are educated to do. The dental hygienists in this state are very well educated and are willing to help the underserved people of Montana, please help give them an opportunity to do this. This would be one step forward for the dental hygienists and the public. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Clancy Casey, RDH, BS

Murdo, Patricia

From: Vanessa Stavlo [mailto:vstavlo@mt.gov]
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2012 10:38 AM
To: Murdo, Patricia

Chairman Berry and Members of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee:

My name is Vanessa Stavlo RDH and i am in favor of being a self-regulated entity. It is time that we were given the responsibilities that our education has afforded us. Thank you.

Murdo, Patricia

From: Tara Boze [mailto:tboze@mt.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 2:12 PM
To: Murdo, Patricia
Subject: please let us be self regulated

Murdo, Patricia

From: Sharon Swanson [mailto:sswanson@mt.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 3:33 PM
To: Murdo, Patricia
Subject: Self regulation

All professions from nurses to doctors are self regulating and I feel that Dental Hygiene is due the same professional courtesy/obligation and awareness for their own profession.

Thank you for taking time to input this information.

From: Pamela & Jack Emard] 1.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2012 12:01 AM
To: Murdo, Patricia
Cc: 'Colleen Grass '; Carlie Boland; 'Kim Dunlap'
Subject: Self Regulation for DH Professionals

Chairman Berry and Members of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee,

With regard to the profession of Dental Hygiene in the Treasure State:

- Dental hygienists are greatly under-represented on the Board of Dentistry; there are equal numbers of dentists and dental hygienists in Montana, yet on the board are only 2 dental hygienists while 5 dentists.
- Our great State of Montana has a precedent of self-regulation for nearly every profession. However, dental hygienists are the only professionals in the state regulated by their employers.
- Dental hygiene has its own board or regulatory committee in several other states and it works well.
- The Board of Dentistry has a history of discriminating against dental hygiene and denturistry and suppressing competition.

With this said, please, speaking as an 18-year dental hygiene professional myself, I implore you—vote for meaningful change in how we are regulated.

The dental hygiene profession should be self-regulated, just as are other professions. I'm requesting you vote for a committee bill to revise the board ready for the 2013 legislature.

Our current Board of Dentistry is in desperate need of reform. A new era transformation, improvement is in order.

With respect,

Pamela Dianne Emard RDH RSI C

Murdo, Patricia

From: blieberg]
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2012 10:32 AM
To: Murdo, Patricia
Subject: I favor of a separate Dental Hygine Board

To Chairman Berry & Members of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee:

I ask that you please support fairness to dental hygiene by adding a separate board of dental practitioners for dental hygienists and denturists.

Several other states have dental hygiene boards, and they do work well. Dental Hygiene has been unfairly represented for many many years even though there are equal number of hygienists and dentists.

No other professionals are self regulated in Montana.

Thank you for time,

Sincerely,
Janet G. Lieberg, RDH

Murdo, Patricia

From: Gail Staples [mailto:gstaples@msu.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2012 1:24 PM
To: Murdo, Patricia
Subject: Support self-regulation for dental hygiene

To: Chairman Berry and Members of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee

I have practiced dental hygiene since 1984 when I graduated from the dental hygiene program at Carroll College. I am currently employed at Montana State University-Great Falls, College of Technology, as the clinical coordinator and full time faculty in the dental hygiene program. I have also served in many capacities with my professional organization and I can tell you that if it were not for the continued efforts on behalf of our state and national organization each legislative session, dental hygienists' licensed in the state of Montana would still be practicing according to the way MDA and the Board of Dentistry would have us practice.

We have advanced our scope of practice according to what we have been educated and trained to do always facing road blocks from the very people who serve as our employers and those who serve on the Board of Dentistry. There will never be equal representation for our profession if something is not done to change the current make-up of the board.

Dentists have a history of coming to the legislature and telling everyone who will listen, that dental hygienists' are not educated enough to administer local anesthesia, nitrous oxide, render a treatment plan, offer dental hygiene diagnoses, apply sealants, or make decisions related to dentistry on the board itself. As an educator, and a professional, I am here to tell you that a dental hygiene education is very intense and rigorous. The Commission on Dental Accreditation sets the standards for all dental and dental hygiene programs in the nation. Only the best will be accepted into a program and only those who maintain high grades and meet all standard requirements and competencies will graduate from a program. Dental Hygienists are tested constantly throughout their programs as well as once they graduate. They must take a National Board Examination. They must also take a Regional Board Examination, which mandates they obtain a "real patient" to demonstrate clinical competence, competence with anesthesia, and in some states, competence with restorative procedures. Finally, they must take a jurisprudence exam for licensure and maintain that license with a mandated number of continuing education credits per year.

Most dentists who oppose our professional growth do not even know what our education includes or what our testing standards are. They know their own profession. They should not be granted by virtue of their credentials, the ability to oversee a profession they know little about. Much of their opposition towards us in the legislature is simply based on scare tactics. They are told by their organization that if we increase our scope of practice, then our next step will be wanting to have our own practice and thus leave them without a dental hygienist. Dental hygiene in any practice is a serious percentage of overall production. The fact is, when polled, dental hygienists in this state have made it clear that opening their own practice is not something they are interested in pursuing. We value the dental team and see the relevance of working side by side with a dentist in our practices. The very things which the dentists in this state opposed for dental hygienists have in fact, made their practices more productive. Dentists rely on our education, skills, competence and professionalism on a daily basis and for them to imply that they do not is simply untrue.

In order for dental hygienists in this state to progress and advance in their scope of practice, there must be equal representation on the board or total autonomy from the current board. We are a separate profession and continuing to be regulated by the current board is archaic.

I would be happy to answer any questions in regard to this email. I urge you to please consider all letters in support of restructuring of the board or in self regulation. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Gail Staples, RDH, BADH
Clinical Coordinator, Dental Hygiene Faculty
Montana State University-Great Falls
College of Technology
2100 16th Ave. South
Great Falls, MT. 59405
(406)771-5122

Dear Chairman Berry and Members of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee:

I am a dental hygienist. I would like this committee to either support the dental hygiene committee on the Board of Dentistry having full regulatory power over their own profession or dividing the present Board of Dentistry into two Boards with dental hygienists and denturists separated from the dentists.

The Board of Dentistry is biased to the opinion of the dentists on the board. There are equal numbers of dentists in Montana as there are dental hygienists, yet there are 5 dentists to 2 hygienists. The dental hygienists are essentially voiceless on a Board that regulates their profession.

Dental hygiene is one of the few professions still being regulated by its employer. The relationship between nurses and physicians is one of the closest examples of the working relationship between dental hygienists and dentists. Nurses have been self regulated for years and none of the "worst" fears scenarios have played out. Nursing is a very well respected self regulated profession. There is no reason to believe that dental hygiene would be any different. Our years of educational requirements are identical. We both have associate and baccalaureate degrees with some advancing to graduate programs.

Disciplinary actions concerning dental hygienists are negligible. Dental hygienists have proven themselves as being a responsible profession and concerned with protecting the public from negligence. You will not be disappointed in supporting this profession becoming self regulated.

Thank you for your time dedicated to this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wordal, RDH

Murdo, Patricia

From: Patti Conroy [mailto:pconroy@montana.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2012 10:48 PM
To: Murdo, Patricia

Dear Chairman Berry and members of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee,

I would like to urge the committee to support the position of the Montana Dental Hygienists' Association recommendations to restructure the regulation of dental hygienists in Montana. We have practiced dental hygiene and dentistry in this state for over 30 years and have seen the problems that have resulted from a profession of employers regulating employees. The medical profession has for years separated physicians and nurses to avoid similar problems and dentistry should follow their example.

Sincerely,

Patti J Conroy RDH
Kevin P Conroy DMD

Murdo, Patricia

From: Mary Lou Abbott [mailto:mabbott@montana.com]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2012 11:57 AM
To: Murdo, Patricia
Subject: regulation of the dental hygiene profession

Over thirty years ago I came to Montana to teach in the Carroll College Dental Hygiene program. One of the concepts I tried to teach was that no health care group could be called a true profession until there was self-regulation of that group. As a retired dental hygienist in Montana, although still licensed, I am still waiting for that to happen. I would urge you to vote for a change in the present Board of Dentistry to allow for self-regulation of dental hygienists.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mary Lou Abbott, RDH, MA

Murdo, Patricia

From: Diane Klemann [mailto:dklemann@montana.com]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 7:59 PM
To: Murdo, Patricia
Subject: Please support self regulation:)

Murdo, Patricia

From:
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 11:00 PM
To: Murdo, Patricia
Subject: Supporting Self-Regulation for Dental Hygienists

To Whom it May Concern,

I am an actively practicing dental hygienist in the state of Montana. I have been actively practicing for 30 years. In all these years I have seen the self regulation issue take many ugly turns at the hands of the dentists. Licensed health professionals such as a dental hygienist should be allowed to have their own regulating board and be tasked with regulating their own profession. Secondly it is a conflict of interest and self serving to the dentists to be the voting majority on a board that regulates both the employer (dentists) and the employee (dental hygienists). I encourage the EAIC to act accordingly and support dental hygienists in obtaining their own licensing board.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Merrick, RDH, MSDH
1035 Cedarwood Drive
Helena, MT 59601
(406)439-4911

Murdo, Patricia

From:
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2012 3:51 PM
To: Murdo, Patricia
Subject: Dental Hygiene Self-Regulation

Chairman Berry and the Economic Affairs Interim Committee,

I am a practicing dental hygienist in the state of Montana and wish to convey my wishes for a Dental Hygiene and Denturist Board separate from the current Board of Dentistry. This would allow dental hygienists to govern themselves (and of course denturists). We have had to convince or if you will "fight" with the Board of Dentistry for years. The opportunity to govern ourselves would be greatly appreciated and put a stop to "turf wars" that always seem to appear when the dentists decide that we are not capable and competent. The people of the state of Montana deserve to have dental hygienists available, particularly in remote areas of this state, to serve in broader capacities than the dentists will currently let us do. These broadened capacities are already in place in the form of the Limited Access Permit. The Limited Access Permit would allow dental hygienists to provide services in schools and other public facilities. Most school access was stopped by the Board of Dentistry and only a handful of schools are currently being served. If you look at the data collected by the state every year, there are needs that could be met by dental hygienists providing services such as sealants. The Montana Dental Hygienists' Association brought legislation that was defeated by dentists lobbying to stop this possibility. These children will remain underserved without dental hygienists being allowed to pursue this endeavor.

This is just one example of the non-professional nature of the current Board of Dentistry.

Sincerely,

Bonnie L. Young, RDH