

1 **Resolution Number:** 200-2024

2

3 **Title:** High Point University Workman School of Dental Medicine

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership

6

7 **Sponsor(s):** 2023-24 Executive Committee

8

9 **Financial Impact:** None

10

11 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

12

13 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and to be placed  
14 on the Consent Calendar.

15

16 **Background:** Per the Standing Rules of the House of Delegates, new ASDA chapters must be approved  
17 by the House of Delegates. High Point University Workman School of Dental Medicine has received  
18 initial accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) to open in 2024. Approving  
19 the creation of a chapter at this new program will allow national ASDA to put resources towards  
20 supporting the formation of an ASDA chapter during the 2024-25 school year.

21

22

## RESOLUTION

23

24 **Resolved,** that High Point University Workman School of Dental Medicine be recognized as an ASDA  
25 chapter pending completion of the requirements as stated in the Standing Rules of the House of  
26 Delegates and confirmation by the Board of Trustees.

27

28 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 200-2024 with the recommendation of a yes vote and to be placed  
29 on the consent calendar.

30

31 **House Action:** Adopted.

1 **Resolution Number:** 201-2024

2

3 **Title:** Ponce Health Science University School of Dental Medicine

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership

6

7 **Sponsor(s):** 2023-24 Executive Committee

8

9 **Financial Impact:** None

10

11 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

12

13 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and to be placed  
14 on the Consent Calendar.

15

16 **Background:** Per the Standing Rules of the House of Delegates, new ASDA chapters must be approved  
17 by the House of Delegates. Ponce Health Science University School of Dental Medicine has received  
18 initial accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) to open in 2024. Approving  
19 the creation of a chapter at this new program will allow national ASDA to put resources towards  
20 supporting the formation of an ASDA chapter during the 2024-25 school year.

21

22

## RESOLUTION

23

24 **Resolved,** that Ponce Health Science University School of Dental Medicine be recognized as an ASDA  
25 chapter pending completion of the requirements as stated in the Standing Rules of the House of  
26 Delegates and confirmation by the Board of Trustees.

27

28 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 201-2024 with the recommendation of a yes vote and to be placed  
29 on the consent calendar.

30

31 **House Action:** Adopted.

1 **Resolution Number:** 202-2024

2

3 **Title:** Universidad Ana G. Méndez School of Dental Medicine

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership

6

7 **Sponsor(s):** 2023-24 Executive Committee

8

9 **Financial Impact:** None

10

11 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

12

13 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and to be placed  
14 on the Consent Calendar.

15

16 **Background:** Per the Standing Rules of the House of Delegates, new ASDA chapters must be approved  
17 by the House of Delegates. Universidad Ana G. Méndez School of Dental Medicine has received initial  
18 accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) to open in 2024. Approving the  
19 creation of a chapter at this new program will allow national ASDA to put resources towards supporting  
20 the formation of an ASDA chapter during the 2024-25 school year.

21

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## RESOLUTION

23

24 **Resolved,** that Universidad Ana G. Méndez School of Dental Medicine be recognized as an ASDA chapter  
25 pending completion of the requirements as stated in the Standing Rules of the House of Delegates and  
26 confirmation by the Board of Trustees.

27

28 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 202-2024 with the recommendation of a yes vote and to be placed  
29 on the Consent Calendar.

30

31 **House Action:** Adopted.

# Resolution Template

1 **Resolution Number:** 203-2024

2

3 **Title:** Introduction of task force to reduce national conference fees

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership

6 **Sponsor(s):** Kenny Tran, Alternate Delegate, Midwestern Arizona,

7 Emily Tarr, First Delegate, Midwestern Arizona,

8 Natasha Boyce, Second Delegate, Midwestern Arizona,

9 Adam Yang, Alternate Delegate, Harvard,

10 Zaki Minas, Trustee District 10, ASDOH

11

12 **Financial Impact:** None

13

14 **Board of Trustees Comments:** As fiduciaries of the organization, the Board recognizes the  
15 importance of keeping costs reasonable for its members. To reduce the financial burden on  
16 chapters and students, the Board modified the Standing Rules of the Board to ensure meetings  
17 are held in more affordable cities and venues as well as implemented a scholarship program to  
18 promote attendance.

19 Since COVID-19, several factors have impacted the rise in cost. Areas include:

- 20 - Overall inflation (site rise in rates)
- 21 - Supply chain issues that drive up prices
- 22 - Limited venue availability due to COVID-19 venue closures and rebooking of events cancelled  
23 during the pandemic.

24 We also recognize that these implications listed above may be impacting a chapter's ability to  
25 fundraise to attend national conferences. Therefore, the Board recommends a yes vote.

26

27 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and to  
28 be placed on the Consent Calendar.

29

30 **Background:** The cost of attending ASDA's national conferences, The National Leadership  
31 Conference (NLC), and Annual Session have steadily risen these past years. ASDA's NLC, for  
32 example, has climbed from \$505 in 2021 to \$599 in 2022 and \$630 in 2023. While these prices  
33 are partly due to economic factors and varying levels of sponsorships, steps should be taken to  
34 reduce the burden on students at the chapter level.

35

36 Measures that could be implemented to ensure that costs remain more stable and affordable  
37 for respective chapters to attend. These measures could include changing the location of  
38 ASDA's conferences to more cost-effective venues, seeking keynote speakers that are local to  
39 the location, and offering fundraising opportunities to support the event, such as selling ASDA  
40 merchandise. These efforts could help struggling chapters send more students to national  
41 events and thus reach dental students who previously could not attend. On behalf of the dental  
42 students, we request National ASDA to create a task force chartered with implementing ways to  
43 reduce costs for attendees and create more pathways for struggling chapters to reach national  
44 conferences. A body should be created to determine what cost-saving matters could be  
45 implemented and recommend these to the conference planning committees.

## Resolution Template

46  
47 Therefore, be it

48

49

### RESOLUTION

50

51 **Resolved,** that The American Student Dental Association will introduce a task force appointed  
52 by the 2024-25 Board of Trustees that will seek ways to reduce the cost of attendance for its  
53 members to national conferences, including The National Leadership Conference and Annual  
54 Session.

55

56 And be it further:

57

58 **Resolved,** that the task force present their findings at the 2025 House of Delegates.

59

60 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 203-2024 with the recommendation of a yes vote and to be  
61 placed on the Consent Calendar.

62

63 **House Action:** Adopted.

1 **Resolution Number:** RC204-2024

2

3 **Title:** Reference Committee Substitute, Amendment to the Standing Rules of the House of  
4 Delegates, Section 3. Order and Schedule of Business

5

6 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership

7

8 **Sponsor(s):** Membership Reference Committee

9

10 **Financial Impact:** None

11

12 **Board of Trustees Comments:**

13

14 **Reference Committee Comments:** The reference committee believes that 204-2024 and 204S1-  
15 2024 both have a similar mission and end goal which is transparency and accountability. Based  
16 on the verbal and written testimony received, the members of the House of Delegates made it  
17 clear that it is imperative to create a task force. Creating a task force to investigate when more  
18 information is needed is standard practice as ASDA has done this in the past with the  
19 redistricting task force and licensure task force.

20

21 In regards to 204-2024, the reference committee feels a task force is best equipped and most  
22 appropriate to evaluate everything presented in sections A through E. They will dedicate the  
23 time, expertise, and efficiency to evaluate this with the best interests of the organization in  
24 mind.

25

26 Based on verbal testimony, the ADA is still evaluating how this information gets shared. This  
27 shows that other organizations are looking into this and we should do the same.

28

29 A task force is necessary to properly vet the following:

30

- How materials are distributed to credentialed delegates
- The information required in the presentation
- The timing and process for delegates to ask questions
- How to make changes to the financial information presented
- Proper parliamentary procedure appropriate to financial discussions

31

32

33

34

35

36 The reference committee looked at both of the resolutions as well as the comments made  
37 regarding the task force. The reference committee is recommending the task force consist of  
38 three chapter presidents, one 2024-25 Board member, one 2024-2025 EC member, and one  
39 2023-2024 EC member. This will ensure that the voices of the people you elected as the House  
40 of Delegates are represented.

41

42 Based on testimony that was shared, this will be a directive not put into the governing  
43 documents. This is because governing documents are meant to be timeless.

44

45 **Background:** Based on the verbal and written testimony received during the hearing, the  
46 reference committee is proposing RC204-2024.

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Therefore, be it:

### RESOLUTION

**Resolved**, that the 2024-25 Board of Trustees appoint a task force comprised of three chapter presidents, one 2024-25 Board member, one 2024-2025 EC member, one 2023-2024 EC member, and a staff liaison to research financial information that should be shared with House of Delegates members based on their role by reviewing association best practices and financial reporting conducted by other dental associations.

The task force research will include, but is not be limited to, the following:

- A. Distribution of Financial Report Materials
- B. Detailed Financial Reporting Requirements for Financial Presentation
- C. Financial Discussion
- D. Formal Requests for Additional Financial Items

and be it further:

**Resolved**, that the task force present their findings to the 2025 House of Delegates.

**Action:** The Chair moves RC204-2024 in lieu of 204-2024 and 204S1-2024 with the recommendation of a yes vote.

**House Action:** Defeated.

1 **Resolution Number:** 204S1-2024  
2  
3 **Title:** Board Substitute, Amendment to the Standing Rules of the House of Delegates, Section 3.  
4 Order and Schedule of Business  
5

6 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership  
7

8 **Sponsor(s):** 2023-24 Board of Trustees  
9

10 **Financial Impact:** None  
11

12 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.  
13

14 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee has considered all the testimony  
15 and is putting forth RC204-2024.  
16

17 **Background:** Because the ASDA Board of Trustees is responsible for the oversight and  
18 management of the Association budget, the Board believes more investigation is required  
19 before such detailed budgetary modifications to the financial report are outlined in the  
20 Standing Rules of the House of Delegates.  
21

22 The Board appreciates the sponsors' request for additional financial information. Since this has  
23 never been requested by delegates in the past, ASDA should investigate further. The Board  
24 believes it is prudent to thoroughly vet this request to determine the appropriate financial  
25 information that should be provided to delegates given their duties as outlined in ASDA's  
26 governing documents.  
27

28 Creating a task force to investigate this request allows the organization to dedicate the time  
29 needed to ensure all aspects of financial reporting are considered. It's possible there are  
30 financial items not included in the request that should be included in the financial report. A task  
31 force allows ASDA the time to look at this request from all angles.  
32

33 The Board believes including local presidents on the task force will ensure their unique  
34 perspective is considered when vetting financial information that should be presented to the  
35 House. Therefore, be it:  
36  
37

38 **RESOLUTION**  
39

40 **Resolved,** that the 2024-25 Board of Trustees appoint a task force comprised of two chapter  
41 presidents, two 2024-25 Board members, two 2023-24 Board members and a staff liaison to  
42 research financial information that should be shared with House of Delegates members based  
43 on their role by reviewing association best practices and financial reporting conducted by other  
44 dental associations.  
45

46 and be it further:  
47



48 **Resolved,** that the task force present their findings to the 2025 House of Delegates.

49

50 **House Action:** Defeated.

1 **Resolution Number:** 204-2024

2

3 **Title:** Amendment to the Standing Rules of the House of Delegates, Section 3. Order and  
4 Schedule of Business

5

6 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership

7

8 **Sponsor(s):** Adam Yang, Alternate Delegate, Harvard

9 Kenny Tran, Alternate Delegate, Midwestern-Arizona

10 Emily Tarr, First Delegate, Midwestern-Arizona

11

12 **Financial Impact:** *None*

13

14 **Board of Trustees Comments:** Received after the deadline for Board comment.

15

16 **Reference Committee Comments:** The reference committee has considered all the testimony  
17 and is putting forth RC204-2024.

18

19 **Background:** In the Standing Rules of the House of Delegates, specific requirements regarding  
20 the presentation of financial information from the Executive Committee are notably absent.  
21 Consequently, the presentation of ASDA's financial report to the House of Delegates has been  
22 characterized by a degree of ambiguity, primarily relying on pie charts, bar graphs, and general  
23 summaries without specific numerical values or percentages. Financial information is offered as  
24 courtesy by the Executive Committee rather than a clearly defined requirement.

25

26 While delegates are not directly responsible for making specific budgetary decisions, they play a  
27 crucial role in determining membership dues, as outlined in ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP Section 4.  
28 Membership Dues of the Bylaws. It is important to note that the American Student Dental  
29 Association (ASDA) operates as a 501(c)6 organization, and a significant portion of its financial  
30 information is publicly available through the IRS-required Form 990. However, the accessibility  
31 of this information does not always translate into a comprehensive understanding of the  
32 organization's financial health.

33

34 This resolution aims to address the need for clarity and transparency by requiring that essential  
35 financial materials be provided to delegates in advance of the Annual Session and presented in  
36 a digestible manner. Delegates, armed with such information, will be better equipped to actively  
37 engage in financial discussions, seek timely responses from the Executive Committee or staff  
38 during the Annual Session, and ultimately enhance financial transparency and maintain  
39 accountability throughout the organization; therefore, be it

40

41

**RESOLUTION**

42

43 **Resolved**, that the Standing Rules of the House of Delegates, Section 3 Schedule and Order of  
44 Business be amended as follows:

45  
46 The speaker and secretary of the House of Delegates (executive director) are responsible for the  
47 day-to-day business of the House, including the order of business, the agenda and the  
48 sequencing of resolutions. The House of Delegates business meeting schedule is determined by  
49 the Committee on Sessions, but may be subject to change. Under extenuating circumstances,  
50 additional meetings of the House of Delegates during an Annual Session may be called by  
51 majority vote of the House.

52  
53 **The business meeting schedule should include a financial presentation and discussion and**  
54 **distribution of materials as noted below to ensure greater transparency and accountability in**  
55 **ASDA's financial matters, allowing delegates to review financial materials, ask questions, seek**  
56 **clarification, and engage in discussions to promote informed decision-making and oversight.**

57  
58 **A. Distribution of Financial Report Materials**

59  
60 **Materials regarding the financial report shall be distributed to credentialed delegates**  
61 **via email at least two weeks before the first day of the annual session.**

62  
63 **B. Detailed Financial Reporting Requirements for Financial Presentation**

64  
65 **The financial report presented at the Annual Session must include the following**  
66 **information in numerical value, percentage, year-to-year percentage change:**

- 67 a) **Total membership and past and projected trends**  
68 b) **Revenues in total and by category**  
69 c) **Expenses in total and by category**  
70 d) **Financial trends of revenues, expenses, and contribution to net assets over the**  
71 **past 10 years**

72  
73 **C. Team**

74 **The Board of Trustees shall appoint a team consisting of three chapter presidents, one**  
75 **Board member, one current Executive Committee member, and one immediate past EC**  
76 **Member and a staff liaison to research financial information that should be shared**  
77 **with House of Delegates members based on their role by reviewing association best**  
78 **practices and financial reporting conducted by other dental associations.**

79  
80 **D. Financial Discussion**

81  
82 **Following the presentation of the financial report by the Executive Committee, along**  
83 **with the reasons for any updates or corrections, the Speaker of the House shall lead a**  
84 **discussion lasting at least 10 minutes during the second House of Delegates Business**  
85 **Meeting, allowing delegates to ask questions, seek clarification, voice any concerns**

86 regarding the provided financial material, and receive timely responses from the  
87 Executive Committee or staff during such session. The duration of this session can be  
88 extended or concluded by a simple majority vote called by a House delegate.

89

90 **E. Formal Requests for Additional Financial Items**

91

92 During financial report presentation and discussion session, delegates may formally  
93 request additional financial items by amending this section of the Standing Rules of  
94 the House of Delegates through a supermajority three-quarters vote called by a House  
95 delegate. The requested financial items must be documented by the secretary of the  
96 House of Delegates and included in the following year's financial report presentation  
97 and materials provided to House delegates.

98

99

100 **House Action:** Adopted.

1 **Resolution Number:** 205-2024

2

3 **Title:** Feasibility Study for Council on Wellness

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership

6

7 **Sponsor:** Hakeem Alhady, Vice-Chair of Wellness Chapter, Tufts '26;  
8 Emely Vidal, Chapter President, Tufts '25;  
9 Tareina Rogers, District One Trustee, Tufts '25

10

11 **Financial Impact:** none

12

13 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board of Trustees agrees with the sponsors' assessment of the  
14 importance of wellness. ASDA's current wellness efforts to address barriers and concerns faced by all  
15 dental students should be evaluated. The Board recommends a yes vote.

16

17 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and to be placed  
18 on the Consent Calendar.

19

20 **Background:** As students within an extremely stressful field focused on the care of the communities  
21 around us, the necessity to provide a focus on physical, mental, and spiritual wellness grows. Though  
22 efforts, especially on chapter and district levels, have been and are currently being considered to  
23 continue and improve the care of student leaders, we ask for ASDA's consideration on establishing a  
24 Council on Wellness to help continue producing more widespread initiatives to promote opportunities  
25 of improved wellbeing. With dentists, and dental students reporting higher than average rates of  
26 mental, and physical health issues – establishing a safe place for students to convene, promote, and  
27 obtain resources grows ever more important.

28

29 Currently, the Five Dimensions of Health and Wellness are the primary focus for National ASDA, with  
30 external efforts being provided by Chapter and District level committees. However, there appears to not  
31 be an internally focused counterpart for those efforts. Following the ADA's Health and Well-Being  
32 Summit, and the push for improving Wellness in Dentists. Our recommendation would be to continue  
33 following the ADA's vision of empowering the dental community in prioritizing their well-being and turn  
34 our attention for Wellness inwardly toward our current and future members; therefore, be it

35

36

## RESOLUTION

37

38 **Resolved,** that the 2024-2025 Board of Trustees be tasked with investigating the feasibility of a Council  
39 on Wellness that focuses on the needs, barriers and concerns faced by all dental students and student  
40 leaders; and be it further

41

42 **Resolved,** that the board report back to sponsors the week following the 2024 Fall Council Meeting and  
43 report back to the 2025 House of Delegates.

44

45 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 205-2024 with the recommendation of a yes vote and to be placed  
46 on the consent calendar.

47

48 **House Action:** Adopted.

1 **Resolution Number:** 206-2024

2

3 **Title:** Empowering Multi-District Advocacy Events

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership

6

7 **Sponsor(s):** Adam Yang, Council on Advocacy Chair, Harvard  
8 Parker Norman, Districts 1-3 Legislative Coordinator, Pennsylvania

9

10 **Financial Impact:** *None*

11

12 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board appreciates the sponsor’s passion for advocacy-  
13 related events. ASDA’s national councils are designed to represent dental students nationally.  
14 This means that the National Council on Advocacy works on behalf of all chapters across the  
15 country, not focused on specific districts. Additionally, ASDA’s Board of Trustees does not have  
16 the authority to mandate how districts choose to collaborate, or not collaborate, with each  
17 other. This is because districts are separate legal entities that make their own decisions.  
18 Advocacy leaders across chapters and districts are welcome and encouraged to collaborate.  
19 However, the National Council on Advocacy should maintain its work on behalf of all dental  
20 students nationally. Therefore, the Board recommends a no vote.

21

22 **Reference Committee Comments:** Based on the verbal and written testimony received, the  
23 reference committee does not believe that the Council on Advocacy should be tasked with this  
24 initiative, as there are currently no policies or guidelines stating that the districts cannot host  
25 joint district advocacy events. Based on verbal testimony shared, there is currently an existing  
26 multi-district conference being successfully held organized by district leadership. This speaks to  
27 the fact that districts are interested and capable of coordinating themselves. If this were to be  
28 tasked to the Council on Advocacy, this could undermine the district legislative liaisons whose  
29 purview it falls under. The reference committee reviewed the mission of the Council on  
30 Advocacy and believes that national ASDA should focus its resources on national efforts.  
31 Therefore, the reference committee recommends a no vote.

32

33 **Background:** The Council on Advocacy plays a pivotal role in advancing ASDA's advocacy efforts.  
34 However, its current scope is limited, preventing it from organizing events involving multiple  
35 districts, as such events are categorized as non-national. This limitation has been further  
36 exacerbated by ASDA's withdrawal from the organization of the DC Lobby Day with the ADA,  
37 leading to a reduction in the Council on Advocacy's responsibilities. It is worth noting that  
38 Council on Advocacy members already represent more than one district, and their collective  
39 expertise can be harnessed for the benefit of all districts; therefore, be it

40

41

## RESOLUTION

42

43 **Resolved,** that the 2024-2025 Board of Trustees be tasked with investigating ways to empower  
44 the Council on Advocacy to a) encourage and guide collaboration of multiple districts and  
45 empower exchange of ideas with district advocacy chairs, chapter legislative liaisons, and other  
46 equivalent positions and b) help districts and chapters engage in advocacy within their local and  
47 state dental societies and allied professions, and be it further

48

49 **Resolved**, that the Board be tasked with investigating the feasibility of removing terms, like  
50 "non-national events", in the bylaws that limit the Council on Advocacy's ability to plan,  
51 execute, lead, and/or support events that encompass multiple district and be it further  
52

53 **Resolved**, that the Board shall provide a progress report to the sponsors and the Council on  
54 Advocacy chair and members following the 2024 Fall Council Meeting. In the event that the  
55 Council on Advocacy's duties are not expanded to coordinate interdistrict events, the Board  
56 shall present alternative proposals and provide explanations to the 2025 House of Delegates.  
57

58 **Action:** The Chair moves 206-2024 with a recommendation of a no vote.  
59

60 **House Action:** Adopted.

# Resolution Template

1 **Resolution Number:** 207-2024

2

3 **Title:** Prohibition of Concurrent Opinion Submission on Resolutions

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** *Membership*

6

7 **Sponsor(s):** Sina Shahrood, MWU - AZ

8

9 **Financial Impact:** None

10

11 **Board of Trustees Comments:** Received after the deadline for Board comment.

12

13 **Reference Committee Comments:** The purpose of the advance comments is to provide  
14 guidance for delegates. The Board of Trustees holds meetings and drafts comments based on  
15 historical context, expertise, and consultation with experts – all in an effort to make the  
16 business of the House of Delegates more efficient and to uphold the best interests of the  
17 association. Whether it is part of the resolution or shared during the hearing, the comments  
18 would remain the same. Not including them on the resolution would take longer for all the  
19 testimony to get shared.

20

21 As defined by the American Institute of Parliamentarians, which is ASDA's parliamentary  
22 authority, the primary duty of a reference committee is to receive and evaluate opinions and  
23 information so that it may present a well-informed recommendation to the House of Delegates.  
24 This can be done best by evaluating all resolutions referred to the committee, by basing  
25 recommendations on the best information and advice available, and by making decisions in the  
26 best interest of the public, the association, and the dental profession.

27

28 The Reference Committee comments are meant to guide the House of Delegates and takes into  
29 account all of the information that gets shared. The Reference Committee does not provide  
30 personal recommendations, but rather synthesizes the testimony from the House. Therefore,  
31 the Reference Committee recommends a no vote.

32

33 **Background:**

34

35 Whereas, the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) encourages members to submit  
36 resolutions to the reference committee for feedback and review prior to presentation at annual  
37 sessions;

38

39 Whereas, it has become common practice for the reference committee to include their  
40 recommendation for a "yes" or "no" vote on resolutions within the resolution text, alongside  
41 their comments;

42

43 Whereas, this practice unfairly influences the audience's perception of the resolution and  
44 potentially sways votes before open debate and discussion;

45



## Resolution Template

46 Whereas, allowing ASDA entities, such as the reference committee or Board of Trustees, to  
47 provide their opinion on a resolution within the same document undermines the democratic  
48 process of debating and deciding on resolutions at annual sessions;

49

50 Whereas, while the Board of Trustees may offer valuable insights, their opinions can be  
51 adequately discussed and considered during the debate of the resolution at the annual session;  
52 Therefore be it

53

54

### RESOLUTION

55

56 **Resolved**, that the American Student Dental Association hereby places the opinions or  
57 recommendations from ASDA entities after the background and resolution itself including  
58 opinions or recommendations from ASDA entities within the resolution text, whether it be the  
59 reference committee, Board of Trustees, or any other ASDA entity, in order to ensure fair and  
60 unbiased consideration of resolutions during annual sessions.

61

62 Further resolved, that all resolutions presented at ASDA annual sessions shall stand on their  
63 own merit and be subject to open debate and discussion by delegates without the influence of  
64 pre-determined opinions or recommendations from ASDA entities.

65

66 Further resolved, that the Board of Trustees shall encourage robust discussion and debate of  
67 resolutions during annual sessions, ensuring that all voices and perspectives are heard and  
68 considered equally.

69

70 Further resolved, that Section 6B of the standing rules of the House of Delegates is hereby  
71 amended to include the following provision: "No recommendation or opinion regarding the way  
72 a vote should go shall be made in conjunction with the review, posting, or distribution of  
73 resolutions by the Board of Trustees, reference committees, or any other ASDA entity.  
74 Resolutions shall be presented and considered solely based on their content and merit during  
75 Annual Session proceedings."

76

77 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 207-2024 with a recommendation of a no vote.

78

79 **House Action:** Defeated.

1 **Resolution Number:** 300-2024

2

3 **Title:** Licensure Portability

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Licensure and Education

6

7 **Sponsor(s):** 2023-24 Governance Committee

8

9 **Financial Impact:** None

10

11 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

12

13 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee acknowledges that the verbal  
14 testimony provided was a point of inquiry and that it is addressed in the exiting language of the  
15 resolution. Written testimony was submitted to the Reference Committee supporting the  
16 resolution. The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and to be placed on the Consent  
17 Calendar.

18

19

20 **Background:** Current challenges with the dental licensing process make it difficult for graduating  
21 students and practitioners to move freely among states to practice dentistry. Due to a lack of national or  
22 universally accepted license, graduating dental students and practitioners are often burdened with  
23 severe financial, administrative, and clinical requirements to receive a dental license in multiple states.  
24 Sometimes students attend school in a state different from where they intend to practice five or ten  
25 years in the future. Other times, practitioners move for family or other reasons such as the case for  
26 military spouses. ASDA supports licensure portability efforts that facilitate free movement between  
27 states while continuing to practice dentistry. Dental compacts ease some of these burdens by allowing  
28 eligible practitioners to practice in multiple states. This is a benefit for both the practitioner and public,  
29 for it improves continuity of care and expands patient access to qualified dentists. Therefore, be it

30

31

32

33

## RESOLUTION

34

35 **Resolved,** that the American Student Dental Association supports efforts to increase licensure  
36 portability. ASDA supports the ability for licensed dental professionals to practice in other states without  
37 needing to obtain an additional license despite differences in state licensure requirements. ASDA  
38 encourages dental boards to support interstate dental compacts that allow for increased mobility for  
39 dentists to deliver care, assist in reducing barriers to care, and support military members and their  
40 families.

41

42 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 300-2024 with a recommendation of a yes vote and to be  
43 placed on the Consent Calendar.

44

45 **House Action:** Adopted.

1 **Resolution Number:** 301-2024

2

3 **Title:** Licensing Fees in Cost of Attendance

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Licensure and Education

6

7 **Sponsor(s):** 2023-24 Governance Committee

8

9 **Financial Impact:** None

10

11 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

12

13 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recognizes that there was verbal  
14 testimony in favor of the resolution. The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and to be placed  
15 on the Consent Calendar.

16

17 **Background:** Every dental school is required to calculate and report a cost of attendance to attend the  
18 school. This information is used to determine how much money students are eligible for in both federal  
19 and private student loans. Cost of attendance includes, but is not limited to, tuition and fees, books,  
20 supplies, living expenses, etc. The higher the cost of attendance, the more money in student loans  
21 applicants may be eligible for. Currently, some dental schools include the costs associated with  
22 obtaining initial dental licensure in their cost of attendance calculations, but other schools do not. These  
23 costs can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars. By encouraging all dental schools to include the  
24 cost of initial dental licensure in their cost of attendance calculations, students will have a more  
25 complete understanding of expected costs to attend the school and will receive appropriate student  
26 loan eligibility evaluations. Therefore, be it

27

28

29

30

## RESOLUTION

31

32 **Resolved,** that the American Student Dental Association encourages all U.S. CODA-accredited dental  
33 schools to include the cost of obtaining initial dental licensure in their cost of attendance as defined by  
34 the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This could include, but is not limited to, the cost of  
35 relevant clinical exams and the Integrated National Board Dental Examination (INBDE).

36

37 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 301-2024 with a recommendation of a yes vote and to be  
38 placed on the Consent Calendar.

39

40 **House Action:** Adopted.

1 **Resolution Number:** 302-2024

2

3 **Title:** Amendment to the *Current Statements of Position or Policy* B-6 Domestic Abuse and  
4 Neglect

5

6 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Licensure and Education

7

8 **Sponsor:** Mikaela Gisch, 2023-24 District 6 Trustee, Case Western '24

9

10 **Financial Impact:** None

11

12 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

13

14 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recognizes that there was verbal  
15 testimony in favor of the resolution. The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and to be placed  
16 on the Consent Calendar.

17

18 **Background:** Dental providers are in a unique position to be able to recognize signs and  
19 symptoms of Intimate partner violence (IPV), human trafficking, and domestic abuse.

20

21 Intimate Partner Violence is defined as Violent behavior within an intimate relationship, this  
22 behavior can occur between individuals who may or may not live in the same home. There are  
23 four main types of IPV: physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological  
24 aggression.

25 Human trafficking is defined as the unlawful act of transporting or coercing people in order to  
26 benefit from their work or service, typically in the form of forced labor or sexual exploitation.

27 Domestic violence: is defined as violent or aggressive behavior within the home, typically  
28 involving the violent abuse of a spouse or partner. This however can include parent, sibling, and  
29 roommate abuse.

30

31 Studies have shown that victims of IPV, human trafficking, or domestic violence will cancel  
32 appointments with their primary care physicians out of fear that the physician will recognize  
33 signs/symptoms of abuse (bruising, lacerations, etc). However, they will keep dental  
34 appointments because they believe that dental providers will not be as attentive to these  
35 signs/symptoms.

36

37 A thorough head and neck examination by a dental provider can mean the difference between  
38 life and death for these victims. However, despite the importance of the physical examination,  
39 it is equally as important to be able to provide concrete and comprehensive resources for  
40 victims on where to get help and how to escape their situation. Because of the unique position  
41 dental professionals are in to help victims, it is of the utmost importance that dental students  
42 receive adequate training to be able to know what to look for during an examination and how  
43 to respond.

44

45

**RESOLUTION**

46

47 **Resolved**, that B-6 Domestic Abuse and Neglect be amended as follows:

48

49 *It is the position of the American Student Dental Association that dental students should*  
50 *recognize their legal and ethical responsibilities regarding the early detection and reporting of*  
51 ***the following: child, spousal or elder abuse cases; domestic abuse, intimate partner violence***  
52 ***or human trafficking. , and that*** ASDA strongly supports the incorporation of ***domestic***  
53 ***violence, intimate partner violence and human trafficking*** ~~domestic abuse~~ *recognition courses*  
54 *in the existing curriculum.*

55

56 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 302-2024 with a recommendation of a yes vote and to be  
57 placed on the Consent Calendar.

58

59 **House Action:** Adopted.

1 **Resolution Number:** 303-2024

2

3 **Title:** Dental Students Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Licensure and Education

6

7 **Sponsor:** Mikaela Gisch, 2023-24 District 6 Trustee, Case Western '24

8

9 **Financial Impact:** None

10

11 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

12

13 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recognizes that there was verbal  
14 testimony in favor of the resolution. The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and to be placed  
15 on the Consent Calendar.

16

17 **Background:** Intimate partner violence (IPV) is defined as “behavior within an intimate  
18 relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including acts of physical  
19 aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviors, this definition  
20 covers violence by both current and former spouses and partners.” The four main types of IPV  
21 are physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression. 1 in 4 women and  
22 1 in 9 men experienced some form of severe IPV. Women between the ages of 18-24 are most  
23 commonly abused by an intimate partner.

24

25 Dental students experiencing IPV are often left feeling alone in their situation and are often left  
26 without the proper guidance and resources to escape. The path to leaving the vicious cycle of  
27 abuse is often extremely difficult for dental students who fall victim to IPV, especially if that  
28 student is experiencing the abuse at the hands of another student. Abusers repeatedly go to  
29 extreme lengths to prevent their victim from leaving the relationship, often by manipulating  
30 them emotionally.

31

## RESOLUTION

32

33 **Resolved,** that the American Student Dental Association encourages dental school  
34 administrations to develop and promote resources for dental students experiencing intimate  
35 partner violence.

36

37 If you experienced intimate partner violence while attending dental school, ASDA encourages  
38 you to report it to your administration through the appropriate channels; and be it further

39 **Resolved,** that ASDA place appropriate resources on its website to assist dental students  
40 experiencing intimate partner violence.

41 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 303-2024 with a recommendation of a yes vote and to be  
42 placed on the Consent Calendar.

43

44 **House Action:** Adopted.

1 **Resolution Number:** 304-2024

2

3 **Title:** Land Acknowledgement Resolution

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Licensure and Education

6

7 **Sponsor(s):** Sina Shahrood, Advocacy Committee Member, MWU-AZ; Colby Dean, Member,  
8 Tufts University

9

10 **Financial Impact:** *None*

11

12 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

13

14 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recognizes that there was verbal  
15 testimony in favor of the resolution. The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and to be placed  
16 on the Consent Calendar.

17

18 **Background:** Throughout history, numerous dental schools have been established on land that  
19 was originally inhabited by Indigenous peoples, acknowledging the ancestral territories on  
20 which institutions are built (Native Land Digital). The acknowledgment of this historical reality is  
21 crucial for promoting awareness, understanding, and reconciliation in alignment with the  
22 principles outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
23 (UNDRIP, 2007). Recognizing the rights and contributions of Indigenous communities is  
24 fundamental to fostering an inclusive and culturally sensitive environment within the dental  
25 profession (AALD, 2021). This resolution aims to affirm ASDA's support for the practice of land  
26 acknowledgments as a means of honoring Indigenous peoples and fostering a more inclusive  
27 and respectful environment within dental education. This resolution seeks to demonstrate  
28 ASDA's commitment to acknowledging historical realities, promoting inclusivity, and fostering  
29 cultural sensitivity within dental education by supporting the practice of land  
30 acknowledgments.

31

32

## RESOLUTION

33

34 **Resolved,** that ASDA supports the practice of ancestral land acknowledgments at dental schools  
35 to recognize the Indigenous peoples, raise awareness about historical injustices, and promote  
36 respectful relationships with the indigenous populations to further the reach of oral health  
37 care.

38

39 Further resolved, that ASDA encourages dental schools to incorporate educational initiatives  
40 that highlight the history, culture, and contributions of Indigenous peoples within the  
41 curriculum, fostering an environment of cultural competency and sensitivity.

42

43 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 304-2024 with a recommendation of a yes vote and to be  
44 placed on the Consent Calendar.

45

46 **House Action:** Adopted.

47

48 Sources:

49

50 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). (2007). Retrieved  
51 from [https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html)  
52 [indigenous-peoples.html](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html)

53

54 Native Land Digital. (n.d.). Indigenous territories. Retrieved from <https://native-land.ca/>

55

56 American Association of Colleges of Dentistry (AALD). (2021). Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit.  
57 Retrieved from <https://www.aacd.com/education/>



1 **Resolution Number:** 400-2024

2

3 **Title:** Inclusion of Dentistry as a part of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Designated  
4 Degree Program.

5

6 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Professional Issues

7

8 **Sponsor(s):** Advanced Standing Committee: District 11 – Shweta Annaldasula, Vijay Sah, Varun  
9 Sehgal, Viraj Ketkar, District 9- Mohita Sharma, District 2- Sonaj Vardhaman.

10

11 **Financial Impact:** None

12

13 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

14

15 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and that it  
16 be placed on the Consent Calendar.

17

18 **Background:**

19 Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a temporary employment that serves to allow international  
20 students on an F-1 Student visa to work for 12 months following their graduation. The  
21 introduction of the STEM OPT extension in 2008 for STEM graduates aims to retain talent and  
22 adoptive innovation, yet its exclusion leaves international dental students concerned about  
23 prospects since Dentistry is not a part of STEM yet. The omission disregards dentistry's  
24 substantial scientific knowledge and fails to align with its inherent STEM attributes, raising  
25 questions about the STEM Classifications. According to the Standard Occupation Classification  
26 (SOC) Policy Committee recommendation to OMB, attachment A, dental occupations are  
27 classified under the domain of Science- and Engineering-Related Domain in the Health  
28 Occupations subdomain. The students who are studying under STEM Eligible subjects are  
29 granted the option of Optional Practical Training (OPT) employment extension, which is a 24-  
30 month extension after the initial 12 months. However, since Dentistry is not considered a STEM  
31 degree by USCIS, foreign-trained dentists are given only a 12-month window after graduation to  
32 secure a work visa which is lottery-based and works on probability. If their classification were to  
33 shift to STEM, these students would then be eligible for a longer 24-month period i.e., an extra  
34 2 years. This distinction is important because it increases the likelihood that well-educated  
35 professionals will be eligible for advanced visas, such as the specialty work (H-1B) visa, and  
36 gives them more time to find stable employment opportunities. For this reason, incorporating  
37 dentistry into STEM could improve conditions for international dental graduates and enhance  
38 the U.S. healthcare system, therefore, be it

39

40 **RESOLUTION**

41

42 **Resolved,** that...

43 The American Student Dental Association endorses the inclusion of dentistry as a STEM-  
44 designated degree program. It is the position of the American Student Dental Association to

45 actively engage in efforts to encourage relevant federal authorities to officially recognize  
46 dentistry as a STEM degree.

47

48 **Action:** The Chair moves 400-2024 with a recommendation of a yes vote and to be placed on the  
49 Consent Calendar.

50 **House Action:** Adopted.

1 **Resolution Number:** 401-2024

2

3 **Title:** ASDA's Position on the future supply of dentists

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Professional Issues

6

7 **Sponsor(s):** Kenny Tran Alternate Delegate Midwestern Arizona

8

9 **Financial Impact:**

10

11 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board appreciates the sponsor's observation about new  
12 schools opening and what the implications of those new school openings may mean in the  
13 future. However, the mission of ASDA states that we are an organization that "protects and  
14 advances the rights, interests and welfare of dental students." Measures that restrict ASDA's  
15 ability to support all future dental students does not align with our current mission. Therefore,  
16 the Board recommends a no vote.

17

18 **Reference Committee Comments:** Based on the verbal testimony shared, the problem of  
19 access to care is incentivizing dentists where to go, not about the number of dentists  
20 themselves. Based on verbal and written testimony that the Reference Committee received, it's  
21 not ASDA's job to take a stance on whether dental schools should open. By not supporting all  
22 future dental students, we are not in alignment with our mission. The Reference committee  
23 recommends a no vote.

24

25 **Background:** According to the HRSA, there is a shortage of 10,877 currently in the United  
26 States. However, with multiple new schools being opened, this may change. Accounting for  
27 recent graduates from expected school openings, the projected number of dentists per 100,000  
28 is expected to rise from 60.8 to 67 in the next 20 years. The ADA Health Policy Institute has  
29 noted in recent years that the rate of new graduates and retirees has maintained a 1 to 1 ratio.  
30 New dental schools cite a shortage of dentists as a reason why more dental schools are needed.

31

32 The approach to improve access to care is not opening new schools or increasing class sizes but  
33 incentivizing current students and dentists to work in rural areas via more student loan  
34 repayment programs. With new schools opening yearly and stagnant dentist wages in major  
35 metro areas, action must be taken to protect our profession.

36

37 Dentistry should be cautious with more schools rapidly opening and prevent an over-saturation  
38 of dentists. The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) sets the pace for accreditation of  
39 new dental schools. To prevent an over-saturation of dentists, CODA may consider adjusting  
40 the timeframe of the accreditation process. This could include increasing the time it takes to  
41 receive initial accreditation and increasing the criteria a school needs before applying. These  
42 would allow CODA to have further control in the rate at which schools open.

43

44 ASDA represents current and future dental students across the country. Speaking and  
45 providing input on new dental school openings is necessary to protect our future.

46

47 *Therefore, be it*

48

## RESOLUTION

49

50

51 **Resolved**, that the American Student Dental Association supports the measured opening of  
52 dental schools and class size increases to meet any existing shortages of dentists. With the  
53 measured opening of schools and changes in class sizes being defined as: all school openings  
54 and class size increases shall not lead to exceed an increase of 1% in graduates per year.

55

56 **Further resolved**, the American Student Dental Association board of trustees 2024-2025 is  
57 urged to investigate the feasibility of appointing the duty of advocating for measured opening  
58 of new dental schools to prevent over-saturation of the profession to the council on advocacy.

59

60 **Further resolved**, that the American Student Dental Association executive committee is urged  
61 by the House of Delegates to work with the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)  
62 leadership regarding measured opening of dental schools and class size increases.

63

64

65 **Action:** The Chair moves 401-2024 with a recommendation of a no vote.

66

67 **House Action:** Defeated.

68

69

70

71 Reference: [https://adanews.ada.org/ada-news/2023/september/dental-schools-and-the-](https://adanews.ada.org/ada-news/2023/september/dental-schools-and-the-future-supply-of-dentists/)  
72 [future-supply-of-dentists/](https://adanews.ada.org/ada-news/2023/september/dental-schools-and-the-future-supply-of-dentists/)

73

74 ADA Health Policy Institute research brief, "Projected Supply of Dentists in the United States,  
75 2020-2040

1 **Resolution Number:** 402-2024

2

3 **Title:** Ethical Use of AI in Dental Settings

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Professional Issues

6

7 **Sponsor(s):** Sina Shahrood, Advocacy Committee Member, MWU-AZ

8

9 **Financial Impact:** *None*

10

11 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

12

13 **Reference Committee Comments:** Based on testimony shared, the Reference Committee  
14 believes most delegates are in favor of the ethical use of artificial intelligence. Questions were  
15 raised on whether ethical guidelines already exist. Because the resolution advocates for the  
16 development and implementation of ethical guidelines, the Reference Committee does not  
17 believe any further action is necessary at this time. The Reference Committee recommends a  
18 yes vote.

19

20 **Background:** In recent years, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into healthcare  
21 settings, including dental practices, has become increasingly prevalent, holding promise for  
22 improved diagnostics and patient care (AMA, 2018). However, the ethical implications of AI use  
23 in healthcare, including dentistry, require careful consideration to prevent bias, ensure privacy,  
24 and promote transparency (WHO, 2021). Recognizing the potential benefits and challenges  
25 associated with AI in dental settings, the American Student Dental Association (ASDA)  
26 acknowledges the importance of establishing guidelines for the ethical use of AI.

27

28 The necessity for such guidelines became evident as AI technologies gained traction in dental  
29 education and practice. ASDA is committed to promoting ethical standards within the dental  
30 profession, as outlined in the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct by the  
31 American Dental Association (ADA, 2021). This resolution aims to address the emerging ethical  
32 considerations related to AI in dentistry and underscore ASDA's dedication to supporting  
33 responsible AI practices among dental students. This resolution seeks to position ASDA as a  
34 proponent of responsible and ethical AI use in dentistry, contributing to the establishment of  
35 guidelines that prioritize patient welfare, uphold professional standards, and foster innovation  
36 within the dental profession.

37

38

## RESOLUTION

39

40 **Resolved,** that ASDA officially supports the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in dental settings  
41 and encourages its members to engage in responsible AI practices.

42

43 Further resolved, that ASDA shall:

44

45 Advocate for the development and implementation of ethical guidelines by the ADA Council on  
46 Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs in collaboration with ASDA for the use of AI in dental  
47 education and practice, emphasizing transparency, fairness, and patient privacy.

48

49 **Action:** The Chair moves 402-2024 with a recommendation of yes vote.

50

51 **House Action:** Adopted.

52

53

54 Sources:

55

56 American Dental Association (ADA). (2021). Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional  
57 Conduct. Retrieved from [https://www.ada.org/en/about-ada/principles-of-ethics-code-of-](https://www.ada.org/en/about-ada/principles-of-ethics-code-of-professional-conduct)  
58 [professional-conduct](https://www.ada.org/en/about-ada/principles-of-ethics-code-of-professional-conduct)

59

60 World Health Organization (WHO). (2021). Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence for  
61 Health. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/ethics/topics/artificial-intelligence/en/>

62

63 American Medical Association (AMA). (2018). Artificial Intelligence in Health Care. Retrieved  
64 from <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2019-01/ai-2018annual-report.pdf>

1 **Resolution Number:** 404-2024

2

3 **Title:** Amendment to ASDA’s Current Statement Statements of Position or Policy E-4 Sensitivity  
4 to Diversity

5

6 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Professional Issues

7

8 **Sponsor(s):** Tareina Rogers

9

10 **Financial Impact:** None

11

12 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

13

14 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and that  
15 it be placed on the Consent Calendar.

16

17 **Background:** Whereas the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) is dedicated to  
18 advocating for the rights and well-being of dental students across the nation. We should  
19 recognize the crucial importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in fostering a vibrant and  
20 inclusive dental community. Starting with acknowledging the recent changes with laws in the  
21 United States, which poses challenges to achieving equal opportunities for underrepresented  
22 students. The first way this could be done by revising our statements of position or policy  
23 concerning diversity. There are more that could be attributed to this resolution to remain  
24 continuously evolving with the generations; therefore be it

25

26

**RESOLUTION:**

27 **Resolved,** that ASDA’s Current Statement Statements of Position or Policy E-4 Sensitivity to  
28 Diversity be amended as follows:

29

30 The American Student Dental Association believes dental schools should ensure all students,  
31 faculty, staff and administration are sensitive to the diversity of their colleagues and patients.

32 ASDA defines diversity through numerous, intersecting dimensions including but not limited to  
33 race, ethnicity, nationality, gender identify, age, physical abilities/qualities, sexual orientation,  
34 religious and ideological beliefs, veteran status, citizenship status and personal lifestyle  
35 preferences. ASDA recognizes the unique challenges faced by these diverse populations.

36 ASDA believes dental schools should provide a safe and inclusive environment for all students,  
37 faculty, staff and administration. Sexist, discriminatory or insensitive language and practices are  
38 unacceptable. Practices that systematically exclude and oppress others should be examined  
39 and addressed accordingly.

40 ASDA supports and encourages the incorporation of diversity training and professional learning  
41 regarding cultural competence and cultural humility as part of dental education. ASDA also

42 encourages the recruitment and retention of diverse dental student populations otherwise  
43 underrepresented in organized dentistry.

44 ASDA supports and encourages equity for all students within dental education. ASDA promotes  
45 impartiality, fairness and justice to overcome biases within ASDA procedures and policies,  
46 educational programming and leadership development. This includes representation,  
47 involvement, benefits and access for those underrepresented in the field of dentistry.  
48 Availability of equipment and facility accommodations where appropriate to ensure student  
49 safety and comfort should also exist.

50 ASDA supports reasonable academic accommodations for individual disabilities, religious and  
51 cultural observances.

52 ASDA is committed to identifying, challenging, and dismantling barriers to involvement for  
53 underrepresented students as listed in the dimensions of diversity, while concurrently working  
54 to elevate the perspectives of aforementioned students and to educate the membership body  
55 on topics related to diversity, equity and inclusion to further the ASDA mission to protect and  
56 advance the rights, interests and welfare of dental students. ASDA supports efforts to reduce  
57 barriers to care for underrepresented and diverse populations.

58

59 **ASDA will advocate for policies that aim to develop alternative methods that promote equal**  
60 **opportunities for underrepresented students in dental schools such as but not limited to**  
61 **programs that increase applicant readiness for those populations.**

62

63 **ASDA will support and encourage collaborations with organizations that prioritize promoting**  
64 **diversity, equity, and inclusion in the dental field, aiming to create a network of support for**  
65 **underrepresented students.**

66

67 **ASDA will support by promoting initiatives geared toward scholarship programs and**  
68 **mentorship opportunities, for underrepresented students in pursuing dental education and**  
69 **presence at dental conferences to ensure their success throughout their dental careers.**

70

71 **ASDA will develop and implement educational programs and resources that raise awareness**  
72 **about unconscious bias, cultural competency, and the benefits of diversity in the dental**  
73 **profession. The implementation and development can be completed by colleagues who**  
74 **actively research these issues and would volunteer time to educate dental students.**

75

76 **ASDA will actively communicate and collaborate with dental schools, dental associations, and**  
77 **policymakers to advocate for the implementation of these resolutions and foster an inclusive**  
78 **environment within the dental profession.**

79

80 **Action:** The Chair moves 404-2024 with a recommendation of a yes vote and to be placed on the  
81 Consent Calendar.

82



83 **House Action:** Adopted.

84

1 **Resolution Number:** 405-2024

2

3 **Title:** Amendment to Current Statements of Position or C-2 policy on Dental Providers

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Professional Issues

6

7 **Sponsor(s):** District 1 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: Colby Dean, Akshaya Raviraj,  
8 and Natalie Ingram

9

10 **Financial Impact:**

11

12 **Board of Trustees Comments:** Received after deadline for Board of Trustees comment.

13

14 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recognizes that there is a  
15 shortage of dental professionals and lack of access to care. Based on verbal and written  
16 testimony, it was shared that midlevel providers are not the only solution. In addition, there  
17 was discussion during the Reference Committee Hearing speaking to the qualifications of dental  
18 therapists being equal to a dental student's education, this is not always true due to differing  
19 programs in differing states. It was also suggested that a task force be created during  
20 discussion, but verbal testimony indicates that a task force is not appropriate. This is because  
21 the dental therapy profession varies vastly among states, regarding qualifications and  
22 guidelines. Therefore, this discussion should be held at state associations. Based on discussion,  
23 this resolution does not align with the current mission statement of ASDA. Written testimony  
24 emphasized that we are the American Student Dental Association, and our policies should work  
25 to advocate for dental students who are working to become dentists. Therefore, the Reference  
26 Committee recommends a no vote.

27

28 **Background:**

29

30 Dental therapists traditionally have a scope of practice that is more preventative and  
31 restorative in nature. This allows patients who previously may have struggled to access dental  
32 care due to financial or locational restraints to get care. One study suggests the implementation  
33 of dental therapists in Minnesota resulted in more low-income patients accessing dental care,  
34 (1).

35

36 ASDA Previously argued the following points against mid-level providers. Below each bullet  
37 point is an updated argument in favor of mid-level providers:

38

- 39 • Current ASDA Statement: A midlevel provider is an individual with some dental training,  
40 but does not hold a DDS or DMD degree, and may perform irreversible dental  
41 procedures on the public. Midlevel providers include dental therapists, dental health  
42 aide therapists, and advanced dental therapists.
  - 43 ○ Although a mid-level provider such as a dental therapist, does not hold a DDS or  
44 DMD degree, there are currently three CODA accredited dental therapy  
45 programs (Ilisagvik Dental Therapy Program in Alaska, Skagit Valley Dental

46 Therapy Program in Washington, University of Minnesota School of Dentistry  
47 Dental Therapy Program, and Minnesota State University Master of Science in  
48 Advanced Dental Therapy) that allow an individual to earn a dental therapy  
49 degree, thus proving they are receiving a qualified education in dental therapy.  
50 Minnesota's programs do not allow a dental therapist to practice independently  
51 of a dentist, they must either be under direct supervision, or have a signed  
52 collaborative practice agreement with a licensed dentist to operate, thus  
53 ensuring that all procedures performed are under the supervision of dentist  
54 holding a DDS or DMD.

- 55 • Currently twelve states have adopted legislation allowing midlevel providers to practice  
56 in their state.
  - 57 ○ The scope of services provided by dental therapists is decided by individual state  
58 regulations (2), with therapists typically able to perform around 100 procedures,  
59 in contrast to the 500+ procedures that dentists can perform (3). By focusing on  
60 restorative and preventive care within the state regulations, dental therapists  
61 can help to expand access to oral healthcare, particularly in underserved  
62 communities. This distribution of responsibilities enables dentists to focus on  
63 more intricate procedures. Thus, working together, dentists and dental  
64 therapists can improve the effectiveness and the range of treatments provided  
65 to their patients.
- 66 • Midlevel Providers were created as a response to barriers to care and the Dental Health  
67 Professional Shortage Area crisis.
  - 68 ○ Two of the four programs were created to meet the needs of our most  
69 vulnerable population—American Indians and Alaska Natives. In making these  
70 programs, dental therapists are removing barriers to care and serving out  
71 vulnerable populations—which are two of ASDA's policies (H-2 and H-13).
  - 72 ○ Tribes in Alaska were first in the U.S. to use dental therapists, in 2004. Before the  
73 dental therapists, many Alaska Native communities had sporadic access to oral  
74 health care or no access at all. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
75 partnered with Ilisagvik College, a Tribal College, to create the Alaska Dental  
76 Therapy Education Program. In 2017, 35 dental therapists were serving over  
77 45,000 Alaska Natives in 81 communities. 78% of dental therapists serve the area  
78 they grew up in. Children in communities served by dental therapists received  
79 60% more preventative care. Those children also needed 74% fewer extractions  
80 and 31% fewer dental operations under general anesthesia. (4)
- 81 • ASDA does not believe midlevel providers are the solution to addressing barriers to care.  
82 ASDA believes that the dentist is the only dental provider that should perform the  
83 functions outlined in our C-2 policy.
  - 84 ○ According to a JADA article analyzing studies, "The results of a variety of studies  
85 indicate that appropriately trained midlevel providers are capable of providing  
86 high-quality services, including irreversible procedures such as restorative care  
87 and dental extractions." (5)
  - 88 ○ In regions like Alaska's Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, the inclusion of dental therapists  
89 has led to an increased improvement in dental health outcomes. A study in the  
90 Journal of Public Health Dentistry found that communities that are served by

91 dental therapists have had measurable increases in preventative care and  
92 decreases in tooth extractions, suggesting better managed oral health conditions  
93 through the implementation of dental therapists. (6)

- 94 • Alternatives include community dental health coordinators, emergency room referral  
95 programs, tele-dentistry, children’s health insurance programs, Medicaid expansion,  
96 and student loan forgiveness programs for working in rural or underserved areas.
  - 97 ○ In Minnesota clinics with dental therapists, on average, more than 80 percent of  
98 the patients treated by dental therapists have been people with public  
99 insurance, like Medicaid.” (2)
  - 100 ○ More than 50 countries have successfully implemented dental therapist into  
101 their dentist-led team (2).
- 102 • According to Policy H-13, ASDA “supports appropriate initiatives and legislation to  
103 improve and foster the oral health of vulnerable populations.” (2)
  - 104 ○ “Since the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium’s DHAT program started,  
105 dental therapists have extended care to 45,000 previously underserved people.”  
106 (2)
  - 107 ○ In Minnesota, state law requires that dental therapists practice in settings that  
108 primarily serve low-income or underserved communities.” (2)

109  
110  
111 **Resolved**, that ASDA’s Current Statements of Position or C-2 policy on Dental Providers should  
112 be amended to read as follows:

113  
114 **RESOLUTION**

115  
116 The American Student Dental Association believes that ~~the dentist is the only dental provider~~  
117 ~~that~~ **mid-level providers—regulated by their respective states and in conjunction and**  
118 **coordination with their supervising dentist—**can perform the following functions:

- 119
- 120 • Diagnosis and treatment planning
- 121 • Prescribing work authorizations
- 122 • Performing ~~surgical/irreversible dental procedures~~ **preventative and restorative care**
- 123 • Prescribing drugs and/or other medications
- 124

125 **The American Student Dental Association supports mid-level providers as an evidence-based**  
126 **solution to barriers to care for our vulnerable populations, in alignment with ASDA's**  
127 **established policies delineated in H-2 and H-13.**

128  
129  
130 **Action:** The Chair moves 405-2024 with a recommendation of a no vote.

131  
132 **House Action:** Defeated.

133  
134 Sources

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