

1 **Resolution Number:** 305-2025

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3 **Title:** Support for Dental Student Members Experiencing Poverty

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5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership

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7 **Sponsor(s):** Lance Attiq, Alternate Delegate, ASDOH,

8 Hannah Lee, Alternate Delegate, ASDOH,

9 Emily Tarr, Alternate Delegate, Midwestern Arizona,

10 Payal Patel, District 10 Trustee, ASDOH

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12 **Financial Impact:** None

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

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16 **Reference Committee Comments:**

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18 **Background:** The financial burden which is brought upon individuals with aspirations to become
19 a dentist are exponential with rising tuition and cost of living increasing yearly while federal
20 loan increase does not adjust for a dynamic economy. Due to the piling debt and massive
21 amount of loans (which accrue interest) associated with becoming a dentist, students often
22 face the choice of choosing between school, housing, and food costs.

23

24 A recent study published in June 2020 was performed to assess the presence of food insecurity,
25 defined as lack of reliable access to enough affordable nutritious food, amongst medical
26 students at a single university in the United States. The survey found over 50% of respondents
27 experience food insecurities while in medical school. The main reasons selected for food
28 insecurity were not being able to get to the store (33.9%), followed by insufficient funds
29 (30.4%) (Flynn et al, 2020). These results can be applied to nearly every dental school in the
30 United States given the cost of dental education is typically higher than medical on an annual
31 basis.

32

33 Further investigation of other platforms offering discounts on goods/services to students
34 including ID.me and UNiDAYS sites found little to no benefit to enrollees beyond the initial
35 encounter. For example, UNiDAYS offers 55% off the FIRST box from Hello Fresh market
36 services but no other benefit thereafter. ID.me offers similar discounts on first time order but
37 no recurring services.

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39 Given the majority of dental students are ASDA members, many by auto-enrollment, the
40 opportunity for ASDA to aid its members arises; therefore, be it

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42

RESOLUTION

43

44 **Resolved,** that the 2025-26 Council on Membership in conjunction with the 2025-26 Board of
45 Trustees investigate developing member benefits with food and grocery companies; and be it
46 further

47 **Resolved**, that a progress report be sent to the sponsors of the resolution by Fall Council 2025;
48 and be it further

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50 **Resolved**, that a list of member benefits be included in the annual report to the House of
51 Delegates.

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References

54 Flynn, M. M., Monteiro, K., George, P., & Tunkel, A. R. (2020). Assessing Food Insecurity in
55 Medical Students. *Family medicine*, 52(7), 512–513.

56 <https://doi.org/10.22454/FamMed.2020.722238>

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58 **Action:**