

1 **Resolution Number:** 400-2025

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3 **Title:** Education and Events for Disability Awareness Month

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5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Professional Issues and Governance

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7 **Sponsor(s):**

8 Miriam Villa, District 10 Chief of Staff, Midwestern-Arizona '27

9 Bree Zhang, Council on Advocacy Chair, Columbia '27

10 Alexandra Wyluda, ASDA Chapter President, Midwestern-Arizona '26

11 Ansen Zhi-Han Lai, ASDA District 11 Events Director, UCSF 2026

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13 **Financial Impact:** None

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

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17 **Reference Committee Comments:**

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19 **Background:**

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21 Dental education in the United States often lacks sufficient focus on managing special needs  
22 patients. The American Student Dental Association's (ASDA) **Statement of Position or Policy H-**  
23 **1 and H-6** acknowledges the importance of addressing the oral health needs of persons with  
24 disabilities and supports initiatives and legislation aimed at fostering their care. However, ASDA  
25 currently lacks concrete action plans to address these issues. Moreover, many dental students  
26 report insufficient training and awareness regarding how to treat individuals with special needs,  
27 factors to consider for comprehensive and compassionate care, and strategies for making their  
28 future practices accessible to all patients.

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30 This resolution aims to address the gap between ASDA's policy stance and actionable efforts by  
31 proposing the creation of a Special Needs Task Force. This group will develop best practice  
32 guidelines to enhance accessibility in the dental workforce, ensuring that all patients receive  
33 equitable and competent care; therefore, be it

34

## 35 **RESOLUTION**

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37 **Resolved,** that the 2025-26 Council on Professional Issues will be tasked with identifying  
38 resources that provide information, education, and events for Disability Awareness Month in  
39 October; and be it further

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41 **Resolved,** that the 2025-26 Council on Professional Issues introduces a designated event to  
42 address Disability Awareness Month during ASDA's nationally recognized D&I Week.