



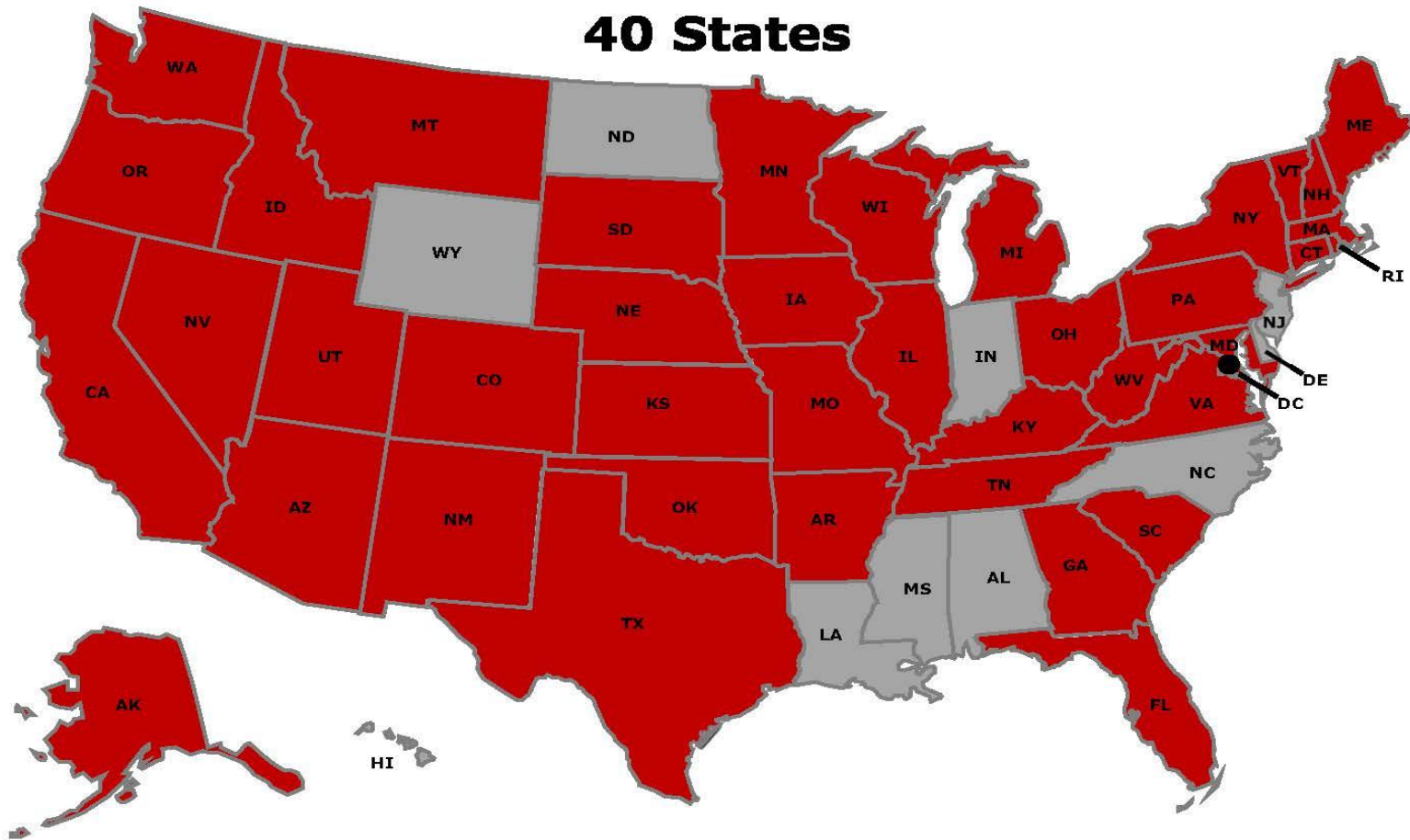
The American Dental Hygienists' Association

- Direct Access
- Dental Therapy
- State Action
- Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Programs

Direct Access

The ability of a dental hygienist to initiate treatment based on their assessment of a patient's needs without the specific authorization a dentist, treat the patient without the presence of a dentist, and maintain a provider-patient relationship.

Direct Access 2017 40 States



The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) defines direct access as the ability of a dental hygienist to initiate treatment based on their assessment of a patient's needs without the specific authorization of a dentist, treat the patient without the presence of a dentist, and maintain a provider-patient relationship (ADHA Policy Manual, 13-15).



■ States that permit direct access to dental hygienists

Revised May 2017
www.adha.org

ADHA Policy

The American Dental Hygienists' Association supports oral health care workforce models that culminate in:

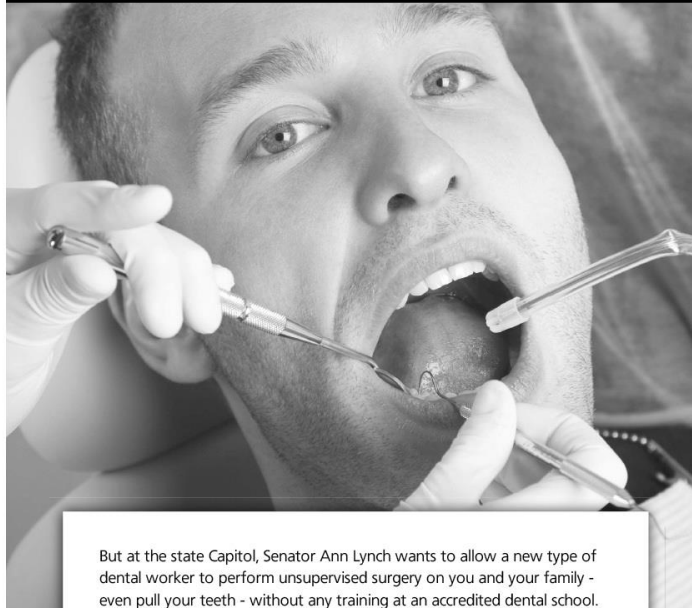
- Graduation from an accredited institution
- Professional licensure
- Direct access to patient care

Minnesota Goals For New Oral Health Practitioners

Improve access by filling gaps where there are not enough dentists

- Dentists are vital to the model
- Designed NOT to replace or compete with dentists
- Part of a broader strategy to improve access
- Not the silver bullet

The last thing you want to hear when you're getting dental care is "uh-oh."



But at the state Capitol, Senator Ann Lynch wants to allow a new type of dental worker to perform unsupervised surgery on you and your family - even pull your teeth - without any training at an accredited dental school.

And worse, a dentist wouldn't even have to be in the building if something goes wrong.

Minnesota's lawmakers must ensure that only supervised, dental school trained professionals perform surgery.

Call Senator Ann Lynch and tell her unsupervised workers doing dental surgery is a bad idea.

Call Senator Ann Lynch today at 651-296-4848.

Paid for by the Minnesota Dental Association
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Minnesota's Oral Health Practitioner Program

For it:

- Apple Tree Dental
- Aging Services of Minnesota
- Arc Greater Twin Cities
- Arc of Minnesota
- BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota
- Children's Dental Services
- Children's Defense Fund Minnesota
- Community Action Head Start
- Community Dental Care
- Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
- Disability Law Center
- Ecumen
- ElderCare Rights Alliance
- Family Housing Fund
- Families Moving Forward
- HealthPartners
- Hennepin County Medical Center
- Hennepin Faculty Associates
- Lake Superior College
- Lake Superior Community Health Center
- Legal Services Advocacy Project
- Local Public Health Association
- Mary's Place, Sharing and Caring Hands
- Medica
- Metropolitan Health Plan
- Metropolitan State University
- Migrant Health Service
- Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers
- Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs
- Minnesota Council of Health Plans
- Minnesota Dental Hygienists Association
- Minnesota Dental Hygiene Educators' Association
- Minnesota Hospital Association
- Minnesota Social Services Administration
- Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency
- National Dental Association
- National Rural Education Association
- National Rural Health Association
- Native American Community Clinic
- Neighborhood Health Care Network
- Neighborhood Involvement Program
- Normandale Community College
- NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center
- Open Door Health Center
- Partnership to Improve Children's Oral Health
- People Serving People
- Portico Healthnet
- PrimeWest
- Regions Hospital
- Sanford Health Plan of MN
- Scenic Rivers Health Services
- St. Anne's Place
- St. Stephen's Human Services
- Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.
- United Way Bright Smiles
- West Side Community Health Services

Minnesota's Oral Health Practitioner Program

Against it:

- Minnesota Dental Association
- Minnesota Dental Assistants Association
- Minnesota Academy of General Dentistry

State Action

- Minnesota was the first state in the nation to approve the licensing of a mid-level oral health care practitioner
- Support of more than 50 organizations including the Minnesota Dental Hygienists' Association and attracted national support
- In 2009, after months of deliberation, dental therapists were authorized in Minnesota

Dental Therapists in Minnesota

- Clinics are serving more patients, most of whom are on public programs and underserved
- Improved efficiency for clinics
- Patients experience reduced wait times and travel distances
- Dental clinics experience direct cost savings
- Most savings clinics get go toward seeing more public program/underserved patients
- There are no quality or safety concerns

State Action

States with Legislative Proposals in 2018:

- Connecticut
- Florida
- Kansas
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Ohio
- Washington

Commission on Dental Accreditation

August 7, 2015 was a historic day for dentistry and for dental education in the United States. The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) voted to move ahead with accreditation of dental therapy education programs.



CODA Adopts Dental Therapy Standards

Program Length:

- The educational program must include at least three academic years of full-time instruction or its equivalent at the postsecondary level.
- This is considered the minimum amount of time required to educate a dental therapist.
- A specific academic degree is not identified.

CODA Adopts Dental Therapy Standards

Scope of Practice:

- Preventive functions include, but are not limited to, sub-gingival scaling and dental prophylaxis, application of preventive agents, dispensing and administration of non-narcotic medications via oral or topical routes as prescribed by a licensed health care provider based on state laws.
- Restorative/surgical procedures such as simple extractions of primary teeth, fabrication of temporary crowns, pulp capping, preparation and placement of direct restorations.

For more information, please
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www.adha.org.