



District of Columbia DENTAL SOCIETY

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The Honorable Muriel Bowser
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser,

We are writing on behalf of our more than 400 member dentists to express deep and sincere appreciation for your action to withdraw the Dental Specialties Licensure and Scope of Practice Amendment Act of 2023 (B25-0632). If the legislation were enacted, we expect that half of all specialist dentists would no longer be able to identify as and practice openly as specialists because only about half of all specialist dentists are board certified. This loss of recognition would have devastated the community of specialist dentists in the District and undermined their ability to support the health and well-being of the public. Thank you for preventing such a calamitous risk both to public health and to those dentists who support public health through the oral health care they provide every day.

There are a few provisions within the legislation that the DC Dental Society does support:

- Clarifying that the ability to place and remove dental implants is within the scope of practice of dentists.
- Authorizing dentists to administer immunizations and vaccinations.
- Authorizing dentists to administer FDA approved neurotoxins (e.g., Botox) for both dental and cosmetic purposes. Currently the use of these FDA approved substances is within the scope of practice for dentists in many other states, including Maryland and Virginia. Some other states also authorize dentists to administer dermal fillers. Dentists receive extensive training in dental school on the anatomy of the face and oral cavity with a focus on the muscles and nerves. In fact, dentists receive significantly more training on facial anatomy than other licensed health professionals who are authorized to administer these substances in the District. Expanding the scope of practice for dentists to include the use of FDA approved neurotoxins and dermal fillers would provide dentists with more options to treat muscle related dental conditions and would expand access for the public to receive facial cosmetic treatments.

We welcome the opportunity to work with your administration and with members of the DC Council to expand the scope of practice of dentists to include the procedures listed above.

Thank you again for withdrawing B25-0632 and thereby preserving the population of specialist dentists in the District, many of whom have served our community for years or decades.

Sincerely,

Cheryle Baptiste, DDS
President

Kurt Gallagher, CAE
Executive Director