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**May 2, 2025****Calling All Dental Hygienists and Dental Hygiene Students:**

Many dental hygienists have expressed concern regarding the recently proposed legislation and the impact it can have on our profession. NJDHA will consistently keep updating information on the legislation that is being considered and are asking for all dental hygienists to step forward in any capacity that you can to support our profession. We continue to advocate for all dental hygienists with our constant attention to the changes being made across the US that can and will affect our profession. This includes strongly opposing lowered standards of care that would allow insufficiently trained dental assistants and dentists to provide an imitation of dental hygiene care. Soon, additional dental hygiene programs will be implemented in our state, which will help NJ increase the number of dental hygienists in the future. We also firmly support passing the Dentist and Dental Hygiene Compact in our state to allow dental professionals to perform their duties and serve in other participating states without getting another license in that state. This DDH Compact is currently in legislation again now

As we all know change is inevitable and a process that can create improvements yet makes us feel hesitant and uneasy. Especially as we make strategic plans, part of our active endeavors, like creating legislation to provide dental hygienists autonomy where we can expand access to care. We can achieve this together. As with many things in our life, change can feel odd at first, then the reasons can later be understood and even respected. Improvements and suggestions can help to make the process better and that is why we are calling on all dental hygienists, stakeholders, and the public to advocate for what you believe in. Express yourself and educate others at work by sharing the legislation being considered in this state and other legislation we need regarding our profession. Get others' thoughts, share yours, reach out to your family and friends to have them learn what is being considered and how it may affect them and future generations' oral healthcare.

This is why supporting your professional association is imperative. NJDHA continues to serve and advocate for the best interests of our profession and patients. We have collaborated closely with other dental professional associations in our state like NJDA and NJDAA for these same reasons. We dive deep to provide these services by giving of our time, experience, knowledge. Now we need you. We need you as a dental hygienist to become involved, join NJDHA, be informed, be a changemaker. Our members and membership dues are indispensable for NJDHA to operate and continue to serve all dental hygienists in the state. It is a time when dental hygienists from all over need to join together and empower one another. New dental hygiene graduates please join, stay with us after SACHA and reach out to NJDHA to see where help is needed, we need your new voices. This is a point in time where we are meant to grow as a profession, so please embrace it, even when it's difficult and we are forced to contemplate the future of our profession.

Thank you for your time and we hope to hear from so many of you in supporting our profession.

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NJDHA President 2024, 2025

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