

Greetings Illinois Dental Hygienists!

By all indications, spring seems to finally be arriving. I've seen the robins arrive, and by me the Dairy Queen has opened for the season. Yep, spring has arrived!

As we near, the end of March, I wanted to update everyone on how IDHA is working for you. The legislative session has begun, and we have filed a bill with legislative sponsors for the licensure compact. In the senate, the bill is SB2982 and the sponsors are Mary Edley-Allen and Adriane Johnson. In the House of Representatives, the bill is HB4579, and the sponsors are Camille Lily and Janet Yang Rohr. We all know how beneficial having licensure reciprocity would be for dental hygienists. Instead of jumping through hoops to receive a state license elsewhere, being part of the compact would facilitate the process. States currently in the compact include: Iowa, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington State. Many other states are currently going through legislative sessions and the compact is moving through the process. For Illinois RDHs to be part of the licensure reciprocity, Illinois must be part of the compact. We are dealing with some legislative, state, and dental opposition, which could result in the bills dying. It is imperative for us to reach out to our legislators to advocate for this bill. **Please reach out to your STATE Senator and Representative to show support for this bill.** If you have had difficulty in getting your Illinois license, we would appreciate any written testimony from you to present to the subcommittee.

Currently, there is also a bill for dental therapist language to be added to the Illinois Dental Practice Act. This bill was NOT presented by IDHA. We, as an Association, is NEUTRAL regarding this bill. If you would like to show support for the dental therapist bill, when filling out a witness slip, please put SELF.

IDHA is starting to get requests for health and senior fairs for the spring and summer. We would love to be able to participate in as many as possible. If you are interested in volunteering at an event, please reach out to publichealthidha@gmail.com to sign up. We are currently working on updating the website and hope to have a volunteer calendar and sign up soon.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please reach out to me, or the leadership team.

Thank you,

Lori McNamara, RDH, BS, PHDH
IDHA President 2023-2024