



VIA E-MAIL: Rep.AndreaSalinas@oregonlegislature.gov

May 17, 2019

The Honorable Andrea Salinas
Chair, House Committee on Healthcare
Oregon State House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-485
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chairwoman Salinas:

On behalf of the 76 members of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) practicing in Oregon, we appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter in support of SB 835.

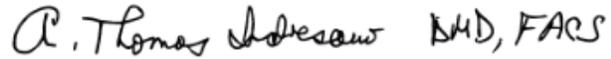
After earning a dental degree from an accredited four-year dental school, oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) complete a minimum of four years of hospital-based oral and maxillofacial surgery residency training, which includes rotations in such areas as general surgery, anesthesia and clinical research. These programs are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and undergo meticulous review. As one of the ten dental specialties recognized by the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards (National Commission), patients who visit an OMS can be assured their practitioner has been trained to the highest training standards due to the requirements for specialty recognition.

The question of dental specialty recognition is a complex issue and one that has been debated across the country over the past several years. The ruling in *American Academy of Implant Dentistry v. Parker* caused many states and state Dental Boards to review their dental specialty recognition processes in order to avoid potential outside litigation while ensuring patient safety. Most of those states are taking the approach proposed in SB 835, specifically requiring specialists to complete a two-year post-doctoral program accredited by the CODA, complete a two-year post-doctor program recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or be defined as a specialist by the National Commission.

By enacting SB 835, Oregon would establish minimum educational thresholds for a dentist to be considered a *bona fide* dental specialist. To use any other standard would be detrimental to patient care and safety. In addition, this measure – in conjunction with the provisions of OAR 818-018-0007 – provides flexibility for practitioners to advertise their credentials and practice area focus while preventing statements that could mislead the public. Finally, the measure is accommodating in that it allows multiple pathways for additional dental specialties to be evaluated and recognized in the future – something lacked in other states who were subject to past litigation. Thus, by adopting this bill the state would protect both the public and the state Dental Board.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal and urge the committee's support. Please contact Ms. Sandy Guenther of the AAOMS Governmental Affairs Department at 847-678-6200 or sguenther@aaoms.org with questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of A. Thomas Indresano, DMD, FACS.

A. Thomas Indresano, DMD, FACS
President

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