



Missouri

Dental Hygienists' Association

(You may add the above logo to your email)

Hello, Representative (or Senator) Jones!

My name is _____ and I am a dental hygienist who lives (or works) in your district. I am a member of the Missouri Dental Hygienists' Association (MDHA).

I am contacting you to congratulate you on your election (or re-election) as a state representative (or senator).

MDHA strongly supports high educational standards for dental hygienists as well as utilizing dental hygienists to the full extent of our education so we can give optimal access to preventive oral health care to the citizens of Missouri, including your district.

This session, we are requesting your support for HB2362 & SB 993 regarding dental pilot programs through the Missouri Dental Board. These bills may allow for alternative oral health programs to increase access to care for Missourians and allow dental hygienists to work at the top of our scope of practice. We are also requesting your legislative support for increased dental provider reimbursement rates through Missouri Medicaid (Mo HealthNet), including for both dentists and registered dental hygienists. Since the reinstatement of adult dental Medicaid benefits, Missouri has seen a 44% reduction in emergency room visits for dental pain. This is good, however, only approximately 27% of Missouri dentists accept Mo HealthNet insurance. According to the Health Policy Institute reimbursement rates for dental services are only 46.4% that of privately insured reimbursement. With an increase in Mo HealthNet reimbursement, we may see an increase in dental provider enrollment. This would then increase access to care for **many** Missouri residents.

I hope you will enjoy your time in the legislature and please keep me in mind if you have any questions concerning the profession of dental hygiene.

Sincerely,

Jenn Kopp, RDH, BHS