



2025-26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd V. Ester, D.D.S., M.A.
Chair of the Board

Cherae M. Farmer-Dixon, D.D.S., M.S.P.H.
Chair-elect of the Board

Susan H. Kass, M.Ed., Ed.D., RDH
Immediate Past Chair of the Board

Mert N. Aksu, D.D.S., J.D.,
M.H.S.A., Cert DPH
Board Director for Deans

Russ Bergman, D.M.D.
Board Director for
Advanced Education Programs

Dharini van der Hoeven, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Board Director for Sections

Marion Manski, M.S., RDH
Board Director for Allied
Dental Program Directors

Justin Bower, M.B.A.
Board Director for the Corporate Council

Erin Gross, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Board Director for Faculties

Justin James Donato
Board Director for Students,
Residents and Fellows

Karen P. West, D.M.D., M.P.H.
President and CEO

The mission of ADEA is to develop an inclusive, future-ready oral health workforce prepared to improve the health of all people and communities through leadership, education and collaboration.

655 K Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202.289.7201
Fax: 202.289.7204
adea.org

November 13, 2025

The Honorable Matt Bradford
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Office of the Majority Leader
110 Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202070
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2070

Dear Majority Leader Bradford,

On behalf of the American Dental Education Association's (ADEA) member dental education institutions and allied dental education programs, I am writing to express ADEA's strong support for SB 842. The changes proposed by this legislation would enable the Commonwealth's dental schools to recruit top talent in the field of academic dentistry by modifying policies that hinder the ability of these schools to recruit and retain foreign-trained dentists.

ADEA is the sole national organization representing academic dental education, including all 68 U.S. dental schools, more than 800 allied and advanced dental education programs, more than 50 corporations and approximately 18,000 individuals.

The proposed changes are based on recommendations made by the deans of Pennsylvania's dental schools in a letter addressed to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, dated March 29, 2023. As noted by the deans, the Commonwealth's dental schools have a lengthy history of "demonstrated high success in ensuring patient safety and quality of dental care." That commitment to excellence and safety has earned a level of trust that should be considered when reviewing the recommendations made by the deans. Many of the recommendations are already practiced in other states and would end screening procedures undertaken by the dental board, that while meant to ensure safety, are duplicative of the safety procedures the schools already complete. The redundancy of these procedures slows the process of granting faculty licenses, which in turn makes it difficult for the Commonwealth's dental schools to recruit some of the best and brightest talent in academic dentistry.

Additionally, the deans have also pointed out that the policy of restricting holders of dental faculty licenses to practicing only at a main dental school building limits the ability of these license holders to maintain and improve their clinical skills and expertise to engage in clinical teaching. By changing this policy, the state would enable dental school faculty to become better clinicians and teachers and would bring the Commonwealth more in line with other states in the region.

The five recommendations supported by ADEA are as follows:

1. Remove the restrictions on granting currently restricted faculty licenses by relying on the dental schools and U.S. Commission on Dental Accreditation- (CODA-) accredited specialty and clinical educational programs to evaluate equivalency of basic dental education for the first dental degree and the good standing of the faculty candidates in all previous states and countries where they have worked or practiced.
2. Allow graduates from Advanced Education in General Dentistry and Graduate Practice Residency programs to be granted restricted teaching licenses.
3. Allow faculty with restricted licenses to practice in their specialty or clinical area at the main dental school building and all clinics operated by the dental school.
4. Amend Section 2 (g) to allow dental schools to provide year-long clinical training for dentists from other states and countries who do not have unrestricted or restricted dental licenses in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
5. Consider applications from dental schools to grant restricted teaching licenses to faculty who have not received their education from a U.S. CODA-accredited program but are recognized as international experts, based on their global impact on their area of practice.

The *Dental Practice Acts* of several neighboring states outline policies that are similar to the recommendations made by the deans. These policies reduce the burden of granting faculty licenses, while still maintaining a commitment to public safety. This has created more streamlined processes and a recruiting advantage for institutions in those states.

- In New York, individuals who hold faculty licenses are permitted to practice dentistry at a dental school's facilities or clinics, or facilities or clinics with relationships to the school confirmed by formal affiliation agreements.
- Ohio's *Dental Practice Act* allows the state board to issue a limited teaching license, without examination, to any person who is a graduate of a dental college and authorized to practice in another state or country, if that person has as full-time appointment to the faculty of an endorsing dental college.
- In West Virginia, individuals who hold a teaching permit may teach and practice dentistry in or on behalf of a dental school or college offering a doctoral degree in dentistry operated and conducted in West Virginia, in connection with an academic medical center or at any teaching hospital adjacent to a dental school or an academic medical center.
- In Virginia, the state's *Dental Practice Act* allows their Board of Dentistry to grant a faculty license, without examination, to a graduate of a dental school, including graduates of foreign dental schools, that has been granted a certification letter from the dean of an accredited dental program, confirming that the applicant has the clinical competency and clinical experience that meet the credentialing standards of the dental school with which the applicant is to be affiliated. The dean must also include an assessment of the applicant's clinical competency and clinical experience that qualifies the applicant for a faculty license.

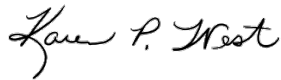
Dr. Karen P. West

November 12, 2025

Page 3

By adopting the recommended changes, Pennsylvania will be in a better position to recruit top dental school faculty to train the state's dental workforce. Thank you for considering our comments and if you have further questions, please contact Hilary Malawer, ADEA Advocacy and Government Relations Chief, at malawerh@adea.org or 703-859-1113.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen P. West".

Karen P. West, D.M.D, M.P.H.
President and CEO
American Dental Education Association (ADEA)

cc: The Honorable Josh Shapiro
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Sen. Rosemary Brown
172 in Capitol
Senate Box 203040
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3040