

## 2023 Legislative Session Recap

As the 2023 legislative session draws to a close, we offer a brief recap of the significant legislation affecting dental hygienists.

**[HB 2473](#) dental hygienists; scope of practice** After passing the Senate unanimously on April 5<sup>th</sup>, HB 2473 was signed by Governor Hobbs on April 11<sup>th</sup>. This bill, sponsored by Representative Steve Montenegro on behalf of the Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association, adds dental hygiene assessment and dental hygiene treatment planning to the scope of practice for dental hygienists. The bill defines dental hygiene assessment as identifying an existing or potential oral health problem that dental hygienists are educationally qualified and licensed to treat. Dental hygiene treatment planning is defined as performing a prioritized sequence of dental hygiene interventions that is predicated on the dental hygiene assessment and limited to those services included in the scope of practice for dental hygienists.

**[HB 2036](#) dental board; rules; assistance; repeal** (Rep. Selina Bliss - R) - This bill would have repealed statute that requires the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (Board) to adopt rules that provide a method for them to receive assistance and advice on matters relating to the regulation of dental hygienists, denturists and business entities providing dental services. We opposed this bill and successfully halted its progress. It was never heard in House Health & Human Services Committee by the deadline and because of that, it is defeated. Considering this, we look forward to working with the Board of Dental Examiners to find a useful and streamlined way for dental hygienists to participate in the regulation of their profession.

**[SB 1248](#) scope of practice; process; repeal** (Sen. T.J. Shope - R) – AzDHA supported this bill which would have repealed the requirement that state-regulated health professions, like dental hygiene, go through the statutory sunrise review process for proposed scope of practice expansions. Unfortunately, Governor Hobbs vetoed the bill. Her letter explaining her veto can be found [HERE](#).

**[HB 2338](#) AHCCCS; preventive dental care** (Rep. Amish Shah – D) – This bill would have established a preventative dental benefit for adult members of AHCCCS. While it was not all we wanted, it was a step in the right direction. Despite its significant bipartisan support in every committee and both chambers, it did NOT make the cut in a bipartisan negotiated budget this year. Expanding dental benefits for adult members of AHCCCS has been one of our priority issues for many years. We have and will continue to work with the AZ Oral Health Coalition, AZ Dental Association, and other grassroots organizations to achieve this goal.