

Report No.	16	New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substitute <input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>
Submitted By:	Council on Governmental Affairs			
Date Submitted:	May 5, 2026	Reference Committee <input type="checkbox"/>	Direct to House <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Total Financial Implication:	\$ none			
Amount One-time	\$ none	Amount On-going	\$ none	

Report of the Council on Governmental Affairs

1 Since the last House of Delegates meeting, the Council on Governmental Affairs met by
2 Zoom on November 19, 2025, and at the Albany Hilton on April 27, 2026. Minutes of
3 these meetings are on file in the NYSDA office and have been distributed to the Board
4 of Trustees and to component presidents, presidents-elect, executive directors and
5 council chairs.

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7 **Overview:** During the 2025 legislative session, the NYSDA continued its longstanding
8 commitment to advocating on behalf of the dental profession, improving patient access
9 to oral health care, and strengthening New York's dental workforce. Through sustained
10 engagement with state policymakers, strategic coalition-building, and persistent
11 advocacy at the Capitol, NYSDA secured several meaningful legislative and regulatory
12 successes that advance fairness, sustainability, and access across the dental care
13 system.

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15 These achievements reflect the collective strength of organized dentistry and the value
16 of member-supported advocacy in shaping policies that directly impact dental
17 professionals and the patients they serve.

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19 **Legislative and Regulatory Wins in 2025:** One of NYSDA's most significant
20 accomplishments in 2025 was the enactment of the Virtual Credit Card (VCC) Bill. This
21 legislation prohibits insurers from forcing dentists to accept reimbursement exclusively
22 through virtual credit card payments, which often carry unnecessary transaction fees.
23 Under the new law, dentists may choose their preferred method of payment, ensuring
24 greater transparency, financial fairness, and administrative flexibility in the
25 reimbursement process.

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27 NYSDA is happy to report a long-advocated update to the New York State Workers'
28 Compensation dental fee schedule. For the first time since 2009, the Workers'
29 Compensation Board adopted a revised Dental Fee Schedule, effective November 13,
30 2025. This update modernizes reimbursement rates, better reflects the cost of delivering

31 dental care, and represents a critical step toward equitable compensation for services
32 provided under the workers' compensation system.

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34 In support of workforce development, NYSDA successfully advocated for the inclusion
35 of dental hygiene programs in the SUNY Reconnect initiative. This state-funded
36 program provides free tuition for adults aged 25 to 55 pursuing associate degrees in
37 high-demand fields, including dental hygiene. Launching in Fall 2025 at six SUNY
38 community colleges, the program expands access to education, addresses workforce
39 shortages, and strengthens the long-term sustainability of dental practices across New
40 York State.

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42 Another major legislative success was the passage of the Collaborative Dental Hygiene
43 Practice Bill. This law allows dental hygienists to collaborate with dentists outside
44 traditional hospital settings while maintaining oversight by actively involved dentists. By
45 expanding care delivery in community-based and underserved settings, the legislation
46 enhances patient access to preventive services and supports broader public health
47 goals.

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49 NYSDA is also pleased to report that the Governor vetoed legislation opposed by the
50 Association during the 2025 session. S.4423 (Hoylman-Sigal) / A.6063 (Lunsford) would
51 have significantly expanded damages in wrongful death lawsuits, extended the statute
52 of limitations, and broadened the range of parties eligible to file claims. NYSDA raised
53 concerns that these changes could have led to increased liability exposure for health
54 care providers, including dentists. The Governor's veto of this measure (Veto No. 87,
55 issued December 5, 2025) represents an important outcome for the profession and
56 reflects NYSDA's ongoing efforts to promote balanced and reasonable legal and
57 regulatory policies.

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59 **Legislative Priorities for 2026:** Building on the momentum from 2025, the second half
60 of the 2025-2026 legislative session, NYSDA will continue advancing key advocacy
61 priorities. Several initiatives passed at least one legislative house in 2025 and remain
62 active, including proposals to regulate discounts for non-covered dental services,
63 establish a dental loss ratio for insurers, authorize dentists to administer HPV and other
64 vaccines, and expand state-supported dentist loan repayment and practice support
65 programs.

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67 Additional proposals introduced during the 2025–2026 session remain under
68 consideration, including amendments to dental licensure residency requirements (PGY-
69 1), regulation of provider network leasing by insurance plans, and authorization for
70 assignment of claims reimbursement. These measures are aimed at modernizing
71 regulatory structures, protecting provider autonomy, and ensuring fair participation in
72 insurance networks.

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74 **Federal Advocacy Alignment:** In addition to state-level efforts, NYSDA continues to
75 support the American Dental Association's federal advocacy initiatives. These include

76 expanding federal student loan forgiveness opportunities for dentists and preserving tax
77 credits that benefit small-business dental practices. Together, these state and federal
78 priorities reinforce NYSDA's mission to advance the profession, support dental
79 professionals, and improve oral health outcomes for all New Yorkers.

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81 **Advocacy Day:** On April 28, 2026, NYSDA held a successful Advocacy Day that
82 included members of the Board, Council on Governmental Affairs, Council chairs,
83 students, and practicing dentists. The attendees had an opportunity to meet with elected
84 officials and/or their staff regarding insurance reform issues, license modernization and
85 block anesthesia.

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87 **Nomination of Council Chair:** The Council unanimously recommended Dr. Douglas
88 Schildhaus (Nassau County Dental Society) to incoming NYSDA President Dr. Amarilis
89 Jacobo for appointment as Council Chair from the end of the 2026 House of Delegates
90 meeting through June 2027. If selected, this will be Dr. Schildhaus's first term as Chair.