

Resolution No.	6	New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substitute <input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>
Submitted By:	CDEL			
Date Submitted:	April 11, 2025	Reference Committee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Direct to House <input type="checkbox"/>	
Total Financial Implication:	\$ none			
Amount One-time	\$ none	Amount On-going	\$ none	

Dental Fellowship Programs

1 **Background:** Dental subspecialty fellowship programs provide advanced training
 2 beyond completion of an accredited dental specialty residency. These fellowship
 3 programs are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and
 4 require prior completion of a CODA-accredited specialty program as a prerequisite for
 5 admission.

6 Currently, the number of fellowship programs within certain dental subspecialties
 7 remains limited and is often concentrated in specific geographic regions. For example,
 8 at present, there are only seven (7) maxillofacial prosthetics fellowship programs
 9 nationwide, two of which are located in New York State—at Erie County Medical Center
 10 and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Patients frequently travel considerable
 11 distances to receive care for maxillofacial defects, which may be congenital, traumatic,
 12 or oncologic in origin.

13 The demographic profile of matriculants in CODA-accredited dental specialty residency
 14 programs has evolved over time, with an increasing number of graduates being foreign
 15 nationals. Under current law, many of these individuals are ineligible for licensure in
 16 New York State pursuant to New York Education Law § 6604.

17 Moreover, because maxillofacial prosthetics programs are structured as fellowships
 18 rather than residencies—and do not lead to a specialty certificate recognized for initial
 19 licensure—participants in New York State are currently not permitted to practice under
 20 the supervision of a licensed faculty member. This is in contrast to trainees in traditional
 21 residency programs (see Title 8, Article 133, Section 6605 (5) of New York State
 22 Education Law).

23 The consequence has been a significant shortage of qualified applicants for
 24 maxillofacial fellowship programs and other dental fellowship programs in New York
 25 State. Because admission to these programs requires both a New York State dental
 26 license and a certificate in a specialty, the pool of eligible candidates is extremely
 27 limited. As a result, many otherwise qualified applicants pursue fellowship opportunities

28 in other states.

29 Many patients requiring highly specialized dental services, particularly those with cancer
30 or traumatic conditions, are treated at teaching hospitals by residents and attending
31 faculty. When fellowship programs are unable to fill their available positions, it ultimately
32 creates an access-to-care issue for this vulnerable patient population.

33 The proposed resolution would authorize matriculants in dental fellowship programs to
34 practice in hospital settings under the supervision of a licensed faculty member, aligning
35 their status with that of dental specialty and general practice residents. Advancing this
36 change is important to sustaining New York State's fellowship programs and protecting
37 patient access to highly specialized care.

38 Without reform, fellowship positions are likely to remain unfilled, placing the state's
39 remaining programs at risk of scaling back or closing. The consequences would be
40 significant: cancer and trauma patients—already facing complex, life-altering
41 conditions—may be required to travel considerable distances to receive appropriate
42 treatment. This not only has the potential to delay care, but also to increase the financial
43 and emotional burdens on patients and their families.

44 At its core, this is an access-to-care issue. Failure to address it will contribute to longer
45 wait times, reduced availability of specialized services, and increased strain on an
46 already limited system. Supporting this resolution represents an important step toward
47 advancing the legislative changes necessary to ensure that New York's most vulnerable
48 patients continue to receive timely, specialized care closer to home. Accordingly, the
49 following resolution is proposed for consideration by the NYSDA House of Delegates:

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51 **6. Resolved**, that NYSDA seek to amend NYS Education Law, Section 6610,
52 Section 7, as follows (new language underscored; deleted language
53 ~~strikethrough~~):

54 § 6610. Exempt persons. Nothing in this article shall be construed to affect or
55 prevent:

56 7. A dentist licensed in another state or country who is visiting an approved
57 dental school or any other entity operating a residency or fellowship program that
58 has been accredited by a national accrediting body approved by the department
59 to receive dental instruction for a period not to exceed ~~ninety days~~ one year from
60 engaging in clinical practice, provided such practice is limited to such instruction
61 and is under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

62 **Board Comments:** The Board supports this expansion of the eligibility for non-NYS-licensed
 63 dentists to participate in NYS fellowship programs

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65 **BOARD RECOMMENDATION: VOTE YES**

name	yes	no	abstain	absent	name	yes	no	abstain	absent	name	yes	no	abstain	absent
Demas	X				Hills	X				Ramjattansingh	X			
Dominger	X				Jacobs	X				Rothas	X			
Edwards	X				Jacobo	X				Samuels	X			
Gamache	X				Korkosz	X				Scharoff	X			
Giordano	X				Krishnan	X				Stacy	X			
Greenberg	X				Miller	X				Stacey	X			
										Res #6				

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