



American Association of Orthodontists
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The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson
900 Court St. NE
S-211
Oregon State Senate
Salem, OR 97301

VIA E-MAIL: Sen.LaurieMonnesAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Senator,

I write on behalf of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO). The AAO is the world's oldest and largest dental specialty organization, created in 1900. It represents more than 19,000 orthodontists throughout the United States, Canada, and abroad, including hundreds of orthodontists in the state of Oregon. As a professional organization, the AAO is dedicated to, among other goals, improving the health of the public by promoting quality orthodontic care, the importance of overall oral healthcare, and advocating for the public interest.

I am submitting this letter to you, as Chair of the Senate Health Care Committee, in support of Senate Bill 835, which sets forth criteria that must be met in order for a licensed Oregon to advertise that the dentist practices in one or more specialty areas of dentistry. S.B. 835 specifically provides:

Section 2. (1) A dentist licensed by the Oregon Board of Dentistry may advertise that the dentist practices in one or more specialty areas of dentistry if the dentist:

- (a) Has completed a post-doctoral residence program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, or its successor organization, and approved by the board by rule;
- (b) Is a specialist as defined by the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards, or its successor organization, and adopted by board rule; or
- (c) Has completed an advanced dental education program recognized by the United States Department of Education and approved by the board by rule.

The AAO supports legislation like S.B. 835 and its Section 2(1)(c), which requires dental providers who are advertising as “specialists” to have successfully completed a post-doctoral program in a specialty area of dentistry consisting of at least two full-time years and which is accredited by an accreditation agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Right now, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (“CODA”), which is specifically addressed by S.B. 835 Section 2 (1)(a), is the only nationally-recognized accrediting body for dentistry and the related dental fields, receiving its accreditation authority from the acceptance of all stakeholders within the dental community and recognition by the United States Department of Education. Finally, S.B. 835 Section 2 (1)(b) references the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards (“Commission”), and for that Commission to recognize a specialty area, the area is required to be a distinct and well-defined field which requires unique knowledge and skills beyond those commonly possessed by dental school graduates and the specialty area must also have a CODA accredited, post-doctoral program. Given the foregoing, the AAO supports the proposed S.B. 835 as set forth above, as it best protects patients from dental providers with less education and training being able to advertise on the same level or in the same manner as those dentists who have graduated from multi-year, CODA accredited programs that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your efforts in bringing S.B. 835 to the legislature and using language that keeps patient health and safety in mind. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at smurphy@aaortho.org or 314-292-6523.

Sincerely,



Sean Murphy, JD
*Vice President, Advocacy and General Counsel
American Association of Orthodontists*