

Through the support of members, the New York State Dental Association has:

DEFEATED legislation which would have permitted dental hygienists to practice without the supervision of a dentist.

FORCED insurers to accept the standard claim form, saving dentists time and money.

PASSED legislation to certify dental assistants and to increase the number of dental assisting education programs in the state.

IMPOSED restrictions upon managed care companies so as to ensure they follow procedures to safeguard the health of patients and the dentists who treat them.

SHORTENED the statute of limitations from three to 2 1/2 years, thereby reducing dentists' exposure to litigation and lowering malpractice premiums and fought ongoing efforts by the New York State Trial Lawyers Association to eliminate the statute of limitations and to create new categories of wrongful death and non-economic damages.

REDUCED the amount attorneys can charge for contingency fees in dental malpractice actions, thereby decreasing dental malpractice premiums.

STOPPED the state from eliminating adult dental services under Medicaid to protect the poor and the practices of many participating dentists who provide Medicaid services.

REVOLUTIONIZED licensure in New York by eliminating the clinical exam as a prerequisite for licensure and by requiring candidates for licensure to successfully complete an approved residency program.

PASSED legislation requiring schools throughout New York to request dental health certificates from children enrolled in public schools.

ELIMINATED the laundry list of duties for certified dental assistants, permitting dentists to delegate any procedures to dental assistants provided the procedures are reversible.

CREATED an exemption for dentists from the New York State Sharps Safety Act.

NEGOTIATED an out-of-court settlement with New York State, in which the state has committed to adding an additional \$576 million to the Medicaid fee for-service dental program.

OVERSAW legislation to regulate dental anesthesia and analgesia services that produce conscious sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia, regardless of the route of administration, in an effort to better protect the public we serve.

PASSED legislation to include dentistry within the menu of services available under Child Health Plus, an insurance program for uninsured children not currently eligible for Medicaid.

FORCED managed care plans to use objective, fair criteria for admitting dentists to a plan, and to disclose those criteria to dentists and patients.

DEMANDED that managed care plans have a formal due process system so that no dentist can be terminated from a plan without a right to challenge and appeal that termination.

REQUIRED extensive disclosure to consumer and health care providers of a managed care plan's financial operations, its coverages and limitations, and its criteria for selecting and evaluating participating health care providers.

DEFEATED all initiatives to allow denturism in New York State.

ENACTED a prohibition against insurers requiring dentists to use X-rays merely to verify the work performed.

TIGHTENED existing laws making it a Class E felony, instead of a misdemeanor, for anyone to engage in the unauthorized practice of dentistry.