



Matt Whitehead
Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association
House Health Committee
House Bill 184 Opponent Testimony
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Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairwoman Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the committee, I am Matt Whitehead here on behalf of the Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association and I wanted to update you from last week's testimony.

Our client and I met with Representative Gavarone and her staff to discuss our requested changes to House Bill 184. Our conversation centered around the concern about the ability of the lowering of the experience level for lesser trained auxiliaries to do duties without the presence of a dentist. We reiterated the fact that in states that have passed or implemented teledentistry that the practice has been limited to licensed practitioners. In Ohio, licenses are issued **only** to dentists and hygienists.

We expressed to the sponsor that the Association's paramount concern is for patient safety as this bill seeks to introduce a newer product to the dental practices; a product that the American Dental Association stated that ClinicalTrials.gov has published that further study is scheduled to determine scientific insight. ODHA is concerned that patient notice is not robust enough in the bill, advising patients of the benefits, risks, and side effects of silver diamine fluoride and letting them know that a lesser trained auxiliary will be applying this product to their child's teeth. Further, we believe that the lack of the appropriate protocol prior to SDF application as outlined by the leading dentists and dental educators in this country is a disservice to patients and will only bandage the true extent of the care that is needed.

By making changes unrelated to teledentistry to the practice acts of certified dental assistants and EFDAs working in dental offices, passing the bill in its current form

essentially allows these unlicensed assistants to apply silver diamine fluoride when the dentist is not present because of the FDA clearance status as a desensitizer. Under the respective practice act changes in 4715.39 and 4715.64 these auxiliaries will be able to apply SDF with minimal in office experience.

Due to time constraints, we did not get to thoroughly discuss the items related to the implementation of teledentistry, I refer you to the document we shared with the sponsor earlier this week for discussion and rationale of the topics we raised.

In closing, ODHA does not believe the bill is ready for full House consideration and on behalf of the Association I must reiterate the objection to the provisions in House Bill 184 discussed in the attachment. We look forward to a potentially more robust conversation with the sponsors and the proponents when the bill is in the Senate.