

Resolution 527 – Coordinating Dental Advocacy Through a National Task Force for Greater Unity and Impact

Author: Dr. Steven Saxe, Delegate

IF YOU VOTE YES

A YES vote supports the action requested in the resolving clauses. This resolution directs the ADA to convene a Dental Advocacy Alignment Task Force to improve coordination among major dental organizations, reduce duplication, and strengthen advocacy impact. It calls for collaboration among the ADA, ADEA, AGD, AAOMS, state societies, and specialty groups to unify strategies, ensure efficient use of resources, and include early-career dentists in the process.

IF YOU VOTE NO

A NO vote maintains the status quo, where advocacy remains fragmented across multiple organizations with overlapping goals and disconnected messaging. This wastes member dues, weakens the profession's influence, and undermines our collective voice in public policy. Saying no keeps dentistry divided when unity is essential for national advocacy strength.

SUMMARY

Resolution 527 establishes a cross-organizational Dental Advocacy Alignment Task Force to bring together major stakeholders in dentistry for coordinated advocacy. The group would identify shared goals, reduce redundant efforts, and report back to the House of Delegates by 2026. Representation would include national organizations, state societies, specialty groups, and at least one new dentist within 10 years of graduation. By collaborating instead of competing, organized dentistry can present unified positions to lawmakers and the public, saving resources and amplifying influence.

WHY THE BOARD IS WRONG

The Board claims the ADA already communicates regularly with other organizations and that coordination is "sufficient." However, communication is not the same as strategy. Occasional meetings or shared conferences do not replace structured, goal-oriented collaboration. This resolution formalizes coordination, sets measurable objectives, and ensures accountability through a report to the House. Rejecting this resolution means continuing fragmented advocacy that weakens dentistry's national presence. The Board's "Vote No" recommendation protects inefficiency instead of embracing leadership. True unity requires intentional, transparent alignment—not casual contact.

TALKING POINTS

- A YES vote strengthens the ADA's leadership role in national advocacy.
- Coordination across dental organizations reduces waste and duplication.
- Fragmented advocacy confuses policymakers and weakens our influence.
- This task force ensures younger dentists have a voice in advocacy strategy.
- A unified approach demonstrates professionalism, efficiency, and vision.
- Dentistry needs one strong voice—not scattered messages—to protect our profession and patients.



Prepared by Dentistry in General Advocacy Coalition

<https://dentistryingeneral.com/digac>

Resolution No. 527 NewReport: N/A Date Submitted: July 11, 2025Submitted By: Dr. Steven Saxe, delegate NevadaReference Committee: D (Legislative, Governance and Related Matters)Total Net Financial Implication: \$30,000 Net Dues Impact: \$1Amount One-time: \$30,000 Amount On-going: _____

ADA Strategic Forecast Outcome: Tripartite: Align member value across the Tripartite.

**COORDINATING DENTAL ADVOCACY THROUGH A NATIONAL TASK FORCE FOR GREATER
UNITY AND IMPACT**

The following resolution was submitted on Friday, July 11, 2025, by Dr. Steven Saxe, delegate, Nevada.

Background: Dentistry's advocacy landscape is increasingly fragmented. Multiple organizations—including the ADA, ADEA, AGD, AAOMS, and various state and specialty groups—frequently pursue overlapping policy goals through separate lobbying efforts, often without strategic coordination. This disjointed approach leads to duplicated work, diluted messaging, and inefficient use of finite resources at both the federal and state levels.

Advocacy is consistently ranked by ADA members as the most influential benefit of membership, with lobbying on behalf of dentists cited as the top reason for renewing [according to the Council on Membership's 2024 report](#). Given that early career dentists also rank advocacy and volunteer opportunities as key priorities, this strongly suggests that advocacy is not only critical to retention—but also serves as a powerful tool for recruiting non-members, especially younger practitioners who are evaluating whether the ADA reflects their professional interests

Creating a cross-organizational task force provides a time-limited, cost-effective opportunity to evaluate where alignment is possible, reduce unnecessary duplication, and focus advocacy on shared priorities. Including representation from early-career dentists ensures the long-term relevance and credibility of the work. The outcomes of this task force can help preserve and strengthen the influence of dentistry in an increasingly competitive and crowded policy environment.

Resolution

527. Resolved, that the ADA shall convene a Dental Advocacy Alignment Task Force to evaluate opportunities for greater coordination, collaboration, and resource alignment among dental organizations engaged in advocacy, with the goal of reducing duplication, strengthening impact, and better addressing the profession's shared legislative priorities, and be it further

Resolved, that the Task Force shall include representatives from the ADA, ADEA, AGD, AAOMS, state dental societies, other recognized specialty organizations, and other dental organizations engaged in federal and state advocacy that are aligned with improving the profession, and shall include at least one representative who is within ten years of dental school graduation, selected in consultation with the New Dentist Committee, and that the Task Force may meet virtually or in person as needed, with a target composition of no more than 15 members, and be it further

Resolved, that the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the House of Delegates no later than the 2026 Annual Session.

BOARD COMMENT: The board appreciates the maker's intent to create broader engagement among the various dental organizations. The ADA routinely communicates with a wide array of organizations within organized dentistry including: AAOMS, AAPD, AAE, AAP, IADR, ADEA, ASDA, AGD, AAO, as well as a variety of other dental groups and the federal dental services. Regularly, multiple stakeholder groups support each other through letters, in-person and virtual meetings and serving as featured speakers in various meetings and events. Moreover, stakeholder groups are invited to attend and participate in the ADA Lobby Day and the ADA annual lobbyist conference. Leadership meets with fellow leaders among other dental organizations where advocacy is consistently listed as an agenda item. As such, the Board finds that the ADA's engagement and communication with various groups within dentistry are sufficient to maintain a robust and transparent advocacy engagement.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Vote No.

Vote: Resolution 527

BERG	No	DOWD	No	KNAPP	No	STUEFEN	No
BOYLE	No	GRAHAM	No	MANN	No	TULAK-GORECKI	No
BROWN	No	HISEL	No	MARKARIAN	Absent	WANAMAKER	No
CAMMARATA	No	HOWARD	No	MERCER	Absent		
CHOPRA	No	IRANI	No	REAVIS	Absent		
DEL VALLE-SEPÚLVEDA	No	KAHL	Absent	ROSATO	No		