

Resolution No. [Resolution Number] NewReport: _____ Date Submitted: 04/04/2025Submitted By: Dr. Spencer Bloom, Delegate, IllinoisReference Committee: D (Legislative, Governance and Related Matters)Total Net Financial Implication: [Total Net Financial Impl.] Net Dues Impact: _____

Amount One-time: _____ Amount On-going: _____

ADA Strategic Forecast Outcome: Tripartite: Promote Tripartite stability, success, and future growth.

OVERSIGHT OF ADA EXTERNAL ADVOCACY AND AGREEMENTS TO PROTECT STATE AUTONOMY

Background: The ADA House of Delegates (HOD) holds exclusive authority to establish official policy for the American Dental Association. This authority is explicitly defined in the ADA *Bylaws* and reinforced within the ADA *Governance and Organizational Manual*, which clearly prohibits ADA leadership and staff from implementing or publicly advocating for any policy, program, partnership, or initiative without formal approval by the House of Delegates

Despite this binding mandate, ADA leadership and administrative staff have repeatedly promoted specific legislative initiatives, political partnerships, and policy proposals before they were formally approved by the HOD. This conduct undermines the tripartite structure and erodes trust among members and constituent societies, particularly when these actions conflict with the will of constituent organizations

A prominent example involves the ADA's continued promotion of national licensure compacts. While the HOD has authorized the exploration of licensure portability in general, it has not approved any specific compact as ADA policy. Compact-related resolutions have been referred back to councils for further study and were not adopted by the House of Delegates. Despite this, ADA staff and leadership have publicly [supported](#) one version of a compact in multiple states, including [testifying](#) in **Maryland** in direct opposition to the position of the Maryland State Dental Association. These public statements occurred without HOD authorization and in contradiction to constituent society guidance.

1. Maryland State Dental Association Testimony (opposed):
https://www.youtube.com/live/NhYr-w_Vw3A?t=16350
2. ADA Staff Testimony (in support):
https://www.youtube.com/live/NhYr-w_Vw3A?t=18821 [5, 6]

Additionally, the ADA entered into a policy development agreement with the **National Association of Dental Plans (NADP)** and the **National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL)** to co-develop national model **Dental Loss Ratio (DLR)** legislation, known as the "NCOIL DLR." This agreement—also made without HOD approval—undermined legislative efforts in Rhode Island, where the dental association had pursued a different DLR approach modeled after **Massachusetts Question 2**. This interference was [documented in a public interview](#) with the **President of the Rhode Island Dental Association**, who confirmed that the ADA's support for the NCOIL DLR hampered state-level negotiations.
<https://youtu.be/e-1MRTi6Pk4> [3]

As noted above, these actions not only violate ADA policy, but also contradict the ADA *Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct* requires national leadership to operate with honesty, transparency, and respect for constituent authority.

1 In addition, **Resolution 203H-2024**, requires communication with state societies before launching new
2 initiatives]. Furthermore, ADA policy on **Legislative Assistance by the Association** (*Trans.*1977:948;
3 1986:530; 2019:310) provided below prohibits advocacy in any state without the expressed consent of
4 that state's dental society Legislative Assistance by the Association (*Trans.*1977:948; 1986:530;
5 2019:310)

6 The below resolution does not oppose compact development or innovation in national policy. This
7 resolution calls for the ADA to establish a formal process to ensure that any proposed compact,
8 legislative partnership, or advocacy agreement involving external political entities is reviewed through
9 appropriate internal channels and brought to the House of Delegates **before being promoted as official**
10 **ADA policy**.

11 Recognizing that the legislative process can move quickly, this resolution does not seek to limit ADA
12 engagement—it seeks to ensure that such engagement is **informed by representative governance**. To
13 support timely and effective advocacy, the ADA should develop and present a range of compact or policy
14 options with clear legal and professional implications, allowing the House to direct advocacy efforts in
15 alignment with the profession's priorities. **In addition, a companion resolution has been introduced to**
16 **allow the House of Delegates to convene virtually throughout the year, ensuring the House can**
17 **remain active and accessible between annual sessions when timely decisions are required.**

18 This resolution recommends that the ADA's quarterly Governance Transparency Report, published on
19 ADA.org, include the status of referred resolutions, actions taken by councils and staff, related advocacy
20 or partnership activity, and timelines for updates to the House of Delegates.

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23 **Resolved**, that the American Dental Association shall not assist any organization, agency, group
24 or individual who is attempting to alter the laws of a state without the consent and approval of the
25 constituent society, and be it further
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27 **Resolved**, that when the American Dental Association is aware of pending legislation within a
28 state which is in opposition to existing Association policy or is otherwise detrimental to the best
29 interests of the public, the Association shall inform the constituent society of the implications of
30 such legislation, urge the constituent society to take appropriate action and offer assistance in
31 addressing the issue, and be it further
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33 **Resolved**, that the ADA shall require that all legislative initiatives, partnerships, model policies,
34 compacts, or public advocacy efforts with external organizations be formally reviewed and
35 approved by the House of Delegates before they are publicly promoted or implemented as official
36 ADA policy; and be it further
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38 **Resolved**, that in alignment with longstanding ADA policy on legislative assistance
39 (*Trans.*1977:948; 1986:530; 2019:310), the Association shall continue to support constituent
40 societies when asked to collaborate in state-level advocacy, and shall provide timely guidance if
41 proposed legislation may impact ADA policy or the public interest;
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1 **Resolved**, that the ADA will publish a quarterly Governance Transparency Report on ADA.org, which
2 will summarize:

- 3 1. the progress of referred resolutions,
4 2. actions taken by councils and staff,
5 3. any related advocacy or partnership activity, and
6 4. clear timelines for updates to the House of Delegate