

Resolution 410 — Feasibility Study of a Postgraduate Year One (PGY-1) Licensure Pathway

Author: Dr. Spencer Bloom, Delegate

IF YOU VOTE YES

A YES vote supports the action requested in the resolving clause. It directs the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) to conduct a formal feasibility study on creating a nationally available postgraduate year one (PGY-1) licensure pathway and to report findings to the 2026 House of Delegates.

YES means exploring a structured, evidence-based alternative to one-day licensure exams that could improve clinical readiness, reduce variability in preparedness, and align licensure standards across states.

IF YOU VOTE NO

A NO vote accepts the current fragmented licensure system that depends heavily on high-stakes, single-day exams. It delays consideration of a structured postgraduate model that could provide a fairer, more educationally sound route to independent practice.

SUMMARY

This resolution asks the ADA to study the feasibility of a postgraduate year one (PGY-1) licensure pathway for dentistry, modeled after similar systems in medicine and pharmacy.

A PGY-1 program would allow new graduates to demonstrate competency through supervised practice rather than a one-time test. It could strengthen clinical training, encourage consistency among states, and protect patient safety while preserving professional standards. The study would guide the ADA House in determining if this approach should become an official licensure pathway.

We Appreciate the Board's Support

The Board of Trustees unanimously supported Resolution 410, recognizing that exploring a PGY-1 pathway is an important step toward strengthening the profession's licensure process. By directing CDEL to evaluate feasibility and report back to the House, the Board is advancing responsible innovation while maintaining public protection and professional integrity.

TALKING POINTS

- PGY-1 provides a structured, competency-based alternative to high-stakes exams.
- Aligns dentistry with medicine and pharmacy models of professional readiness.
- Encourages consistency among states while preserving licensure standards.

- Strengthens clinical experience and public trust in graduate competence.
- Reduces exam-related stress and promotes long-term educational growth.
- Supported by the Board of Trustees and aligned with ADA strategic goals.
- A YES vote promotes fairness, quality, and accountability in licensure.



Prepared by Dentistry in General Advocacy Coalition

<https://dentistryingeneral.com/digac>

Resolution No. 410 NewReport: N/A Date Submitted: 08/14/2025Submitted By: Dr. Spencer Bloom, delegate, IllinoisReference Committee: C (Dental Education and Related Matters)Total Net Financial Implication: None

Net Dues Impact: _____

Amount One-time: _____

Amount On-going: _____

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

FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A POSTGRADUATE YEAR ONE (PGY-1) LICENSURE PATHWAY

The following resolution was submitted on Thursday, August 14, 2025, by Dr. Spencer Bloom, delegate, Illinois.

Background: As the landscape of dental education continues to evolve, with growing concerns about variability in clinical preparedness, the House of Delegates has a responsibility to explore modern, evidence-based alternatives to high-stakes, one-day licensure examinations. Many states already accept non-patient-based exams, and as of 2024, forty-nine states and the District of Columbia allow manikin-based clinical testing.

A nationally available postgraduate year one (PGY-1) pathway—similar to medical and pharmacy models—may provide a more structured, competency-based, and longitudinal method of assessing readiness for independent practice. Such a model could also support portability by aligning licensure expectations across states while preserving standards. A formal feasibility study by the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) would provide the House of Delegates with the necessary insight to consider PGY-1 as an official pathway.

Resolution

410. Resolved, that the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) study the feasibility of a nationally available postgraduate year one (PGY-1) licensure pathway, and report back to the 2026 House of Delegates with findings and recommendations.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Vote Yes.**Vote: Resolution 410**

BERG	Yes	DOWD	Yes	KNAPP	Yes	STUEFEN	Yes
BOYLE	Yes	GRAHAM	Yes	MANN	Yes	TULAK-GORECKI	Yes
BROWN	Yes	HISEL	Yes	MARKARIAN	Yes	WANAMAKER	Yes
CAMMARATA	Yes	HOWARD	Yes	MERCER	Absent		
CHOPRA	Yes	IRANI	Yes	REAVIS	Yes		
DEL VALLE-SEPÚLVEDA	Yes	KAHL	Yes	ROSATO	Yes		