****Official House Resolution and Board Comments Attached**

Resolution 209 – Ending Unproductive Spending on FDI and Reinvesting in Member-Focused Priorities

Author: Dr. Steven Saxe, Delegate

IF YOU VOTE YES

A YES vote supports discontinuing all ADA funding and participation in the FDI World Dental Federation starting in Fiscal Year 2026. It requires that any future proposal to rejoin FDI must be approved by the ADA House of Delegates and backed by a financial report of prior FDI spending. It also redirects the freed funds toward strengthening ADA programs, improving member services, and advancing strategic priorities that deliver measurable value to members.

IF YOU VOTE NO

A NO vote accepts continued high-cost spending on the FDI World Dental Federation, even though it has shown little measurable return for ADA members. It supports ongoing participation in an organization whose programs and policies have not been integrated into ADA priorities or communications and maintains an unproductive allocation of funds that could otherwise serve members directly.

SUMMARY

This resolution ends ADA's financial and operational involvement with the FDI World Dental Federation beginning in FY2026. It ensures accountability by requiring any future re-engagement with FDI to receive House approval. The goal is to eliminate spending that does not provide measurable member value and to reallocate those funds to strengthen ADA's domestic programs, advocacy, and strategic priorities aligned with mission-based budgeting and member outcomes.

WHY THE BOARD IS WRONG

The Board's defense of continued FDI spending overlooks the fact that the ADA's own mission-based budgeting model demands measurable member benefit and accountability. The Board admits that FDI costs have reached $700,000–$800,000 per year and only recently dropped to $560,000, yet no evidence has been provided that this spending produces quantifiable value for ADA members. Claims about "global influence" and "networking" do not meet the ADA's new standards for measurable outcomes. The ADA already has ample opportunities for global collaboration without paying excessive dues to an external federation. Continuing this expense violates the spirit of fiscal discipline and transparency set forth in the Treasurer's Report and Strategic Forecasting framework. According to the 2024 House of Delegates Report of the Treasurer (pages 9–11), measurable value is defined by alignment with the ADA's Strategic Forecast, financial sustainability, and documented impact on advocacy, engagement, or member services.

TALKING POINTS

- ADA has spent over half a million dollars annually on FDI without any documented return on investment.
- No ADA reports show measurable benefit from FDI programs or policies.
- Mission-based budgeting requires that every dollar advance the ADA's Strategic Forecast and deliver value to members.
- Reallocating FDI funds will strengthen domestic programs, advocacy, and member services.
- House approval for any future FDI re-entry ensures accountability and protects against unapproved international spending.
- A YES vote prioritizes transparency, fiscal responsibility, and measurable value for every ADA member.

Prepared by Dentistry in General Advocacy Coalition
https://dentistryingeneral.com/digac

Resolution No. 209 New

Report: N/A Date Submitted: 04/03/2025

Submitted By: Dr. Steven Saxe, delegate, Nevada

Reference Committee: A (Business, Membership and Administrative 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.

ENDING UNPRODUCTIVE SPENDING ON FDI AND REINVESTING IN MEMBER-FOCUSED PRIORITIES

The following resolution was submitted on Thursday, April 3, 2025, by Dr. Steven Saxe, delegate, Nevada.

Background: The American Dental Association (ADA) is currently the largest dues-paying member of the FDI World Dental Federation (FDI). According to the 2020 Board Report 2 (*Annual Reports*:2040), the 2021 ADA budget recorded $17,000 in revenue and $672,000 in expenses related to FDI, broken down into $212,000 in travel and $460,000 in services. This demonstrates an expenditure of $656,000**.** These figures represent the last time FDI costs were transparently itemized in ADA reports; since then, FDI-related expenses have not appeared as a distinct budget line.

The ADA's participation in FDI has not yielded measurable returns for member dentists. A thorough review of the *2024 Annual Reports to the House of Delegates* and the *Treasurer Update – May 2025* reveals no mention of FDI-led campaigns, including World Oral Health Day, nor any reference to the adoption or promotion of FDI policy papers. These initiatives do not appear to be integrated into ADA's public-facing communications, domestic strategic priorities, or member engagement activities

Moreover, the ADA's shift to mission-based budgeting and quarterly financial planning has redefined how programs are evaluated—prioritizing strategic alignment and measurable member value. As explained in the *2024 House of Delegates – Report of the Treasurer* by Dr. Ted Sherwin (pages 9 to 11), the ADA now uses a rolling 12-month financial operating plan, updated quarterly, that allows the organization to respond to evolving market conditions and member needs more effectively. Financial reporting now identifies specific outputs, tracks spending by program area, and assesses whether dollars are being used to advance the ADA's mission as set by the Strategic Forecasting Committee and the House of Delegates. This approach ensures a more disciplined focus on return on investment and measurable outcomes. In this context, continued high-cost spending on external organizations with limited demonstrated benefit—such as ADA's involvement in the FDI World Dental Federation—should be reexamined for mission alignment and member value.

Redirecting these funds could help strengthen ADA programs, improve domestic public health efforts, and enhance strategic priorities that deliver measurable value to members. In ADA policy documents, "measurable value" is defined through alignment with the Strategic Forecast, support for financial sustainability, and demonstrable impact on advocacy, engagement, or services to the dental profession (*2024 House of Delegates – Report of the Treasurer*, pages 9–11).

The intent of this resolution is to eliminate unproductive spending and prioritize direct value for ADA members by ensuring that international expenditures are aligned with mission-focused outcomes and measurable impact.

While this resolution directs the ADA to fully discontinue funding and participation in the FDI World Dental Federation beginning in Fiscal Year 2026, additional clauses are included to ensure financial transparency during the wind-down process and to prevent any future re-engagement with FDI from occurring without explicit approval by the House of Delegates. This language is designed not to contradict the directive to withdraw, but to close procedural loopholes and ensure accountability for any residual or administrative costs that may arise.

Resolution

209. Resolved, that beginning in Fiscal Year 2026, the American Dental Association discontinue all funding and participation in the FDI World Dental Federation, and be it further

Resolved, that in the event any future proposal is made to reinitiate ADA participation in or financial support for the FDI World Dental Federation, such action shall require prior approval by the ADA House of Delegates through the adoption of a resolution which shall include a report of such spending from 2021-2025, and be it further

Resolved, that the American Dental Association reallocate any savings from discontinued FDI participation to activities that strengthen ADA programs, improve member services, or support strategic priorities identified through the Strategic Forecast, provided that such activities clearly align with the ADA's mission and demonstrate documented value to members through outcomes such as advocacy impact, membership engagement, or operational sustainability.

BOARD COMMENT: The Board of Trustees recognizes the need to examine the ADA's participation in the FDI World Dental Federation. FDI is the major global organization that advocates for oral health and the advancement of the dental profession across the globe, objectives that align to the ADA's core mission and values. The ADA, however, does not have a direct representation in major international health policy agencies, such as the World Health Organization. The FDI does, and this is how the ADA is represented and exercises influence. FDI also provides an effective networking forum for the ADA to develop partnerships and collaborations with dental associations in different countries. The ADA is recognized as a global leader in oral health, and the expertise and resources housed within the ADA are sought after internationally. The ADA is exploring ways to enhance the ADA brand internationally to seek mutually beneficial collaborations worldwide.

In parallel, the Board of Trustees wishes to highlight that the ADA has already taken action in 2025 to reduce expenses associated with FDI and will continue to do so going forward. For example, for 2023 and 2024 the FDI dues and delegation travel costs ranged from $700,000 to $800,000, compared to $560,000 in 2025. In addition, this past year, the ADA has been a leader in pushing for long-term governance reform within FDI that would reduce membership dues and offset other associated costs. The ADA is part of two high-level FDI special committees working on solutions to streamline costs as well as leading a coalition of like-minded associations in driving governance reform.

The ADA FDI Delegation recognizes the importance of keeping members informed of its activities and an annual report on those activities shall be delivered to the ADA House of Delegates.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Vote No.

1 **Vote: Resolution 209**

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