

Report No.	6	New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substitute <input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>
Submitted By:	Council on Governmental Affairs			
Date Submitted:	April 2, 2024	Reference Committee <input type="checkbox"/>	Direct to House <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Total Financial Implication:	\$ none			
Amount One-time	\$ none	Amount On-going	\$ none	

Report of the Council on Governmental Affairs

1 Since the last House of Delegates meeting, the Council on Governmental Affairs met by
 2 Zoom on December 6, 2023, and at the Renaissance Hotel on March 19, 2024. Minutes
 3 of these meetings are on file in the NYSDA office and have been distributed to the
 4 Board of Trustees and to component presidents, presidents-elect, executive directors
 5 and council chairs.

6
 7 **Director of Governmental Affairs and Contract Lobbyist:** The Director of
 8 Governmental Affairs Briana McNamee continues to lead the Department of
 9 Governmental Affairs and its contract lobbyists from Brown and Weinraub, PLLC. The
 10 contract with Brown and Weinraub, PLLC, is reviewed annually by the NYSDA Lobby
 11 Review Committee.

12
 13 **New York State Budget Victories:** At the time of this report (April 1), the SFY 2024-
 14 2025 Budget had not been finalized.

15
 16 On Tuesday, January 16, Governor Hochul unveiled her 2024-25 Executive Budget
 17 proposal for the fiscal year that began April 1, 2024. All fund spending, including federal
 18 funds, is projected at \$232 billion, a 5.1 percent increase over the current-year budget.

19
 20 The Governor’s Budget closes a \$4.2-billion projected budget gap through a
 21 combination of higher-than-projected revenues, use of reserves and targeted reductions
 22 in planned spending, including \$1 billion in Medicaid reductions from original
 23 projections.

24
 25 Several initiatives and monetary allocations were included within the governor’s
 26 proposal that would affect the dental profession. They included: expanding the scope of
 27 practice for dentists to include vaccination and diagnostic test administration; expanding
 28 the scope of dental hygienists to include block anesthesia and duties such as placing
 29 pre-fit orthodontic bands, expanding the current collaborative practice agreement

30 structure; patient protections; and investments to programs serving marginalized
31 populations.

32

33 The Senate and the Assembly each responded to Governor Hochul's Executive Budget
34 proposal with their respective "one-house" bills in mid-March. While there were
35 differences in each bill, the houses were aligned in their rejection of the governor's
36 proposed Medicaid cuts and in their support for funding Medicaid increases.

37

38 Both houses shared an approach to generate significant additional Medicaid revenues.
39 Specifically, they would have New York apply to CMS for a Medicaid waiver that would
40 allow the state to tax Medicaid MCOs, which would generate significant state revenue,
41 which could then be used to draw down the federal Medicaid share, which the houses
42 would use to repay the plans for the tax, restore cuts and fund new investments.

43

44 With a couple of minor exceptions, both houses rejected the governor's proposals to
45 address the continuing healthcare workforce crisis, including interstate compact
46 proposals and the expansion of scope of certain professions, including dentists and
47 dental hygienists.

48

49

50 **NYSDA Legislative Scorecard:** A highlight of actions taken on bills that NYSDA has
51 advocated for or against since the House of Delegates 2023 appears below.

52

53 Introduced: S7013 (Breslin) / A7852 (Weprin) is a NYSDA priority bill that would
54 establish an 82% medical loss ratio for dental insurance and create reporting
55 requirements. This bill was first introduced in the Senate in May and in the Assembly in
56 July 2023.

57

58 Introduced: S7577 (Breslin) / A7862 (Weprin) is a NYSDA priority bill that would prevent
59 insurance companies from including provisions within their contracts that relate to or
60 affect dental services they do not cover. This legislation was introduced in June in the
61 Senate and July in the Assembly. The bill was unanimously approved in the Assembly
62 Insurance Committee and placed on the calendar for a full vote in the lower house.

63

64 Introduced: S7356 (Stavisky) / A7855 (Weprin) is a NYSDA priority bill that would permit
65 dentists to administer vaccinations for influenza and COVID. In addition, dentists would
66 be eligible to provide vaccinations related to future public health emergencies. This bill
67 was introduced in the Senate and Assembly following the success of NYSDA's
68 Advocacy Day in April 2023. The bill passed the Senate Higher Education Committee
69 and was sent to the Senate floor.

70

71 Introduced: S7355 (Stavisky) / A7857 (Weprin) is a NYSDA priority bill that would permit
72 dentists to administer vaccinations against human papillomavirus. This bill was
73 introduced in the Senate and Assembly following NYSDA's Advocacy Day in April 2023.
74 The Bill was introduced in the Senate in May 2023 and the Assembly in July 2023.

75
76 Introduced: S8098 (Gounardes) / A9638 (Weprin) is a NYSDA priority bill which amends
77 the definition of dental practice. This bill was introduced in the Senate in January 2024
78 and in the lower house in March 2024.

79
80 Passed One House: S6752 (Harckham) / A284 (Paulin), if passed, would allow
81 hygienists to administer block anesthesia in addition to the currently allowed local
82 anesthesia and infiltration. This bill passed the Senate in March 2024.

83
84 Vetoed: S6636 (Hoylman-Sigal) / A6698 would have vastly expanded the nature of
85 damages, the allowable statute of limitations, and the parties who could claim recovery
86 in wrongful death actions. This bill was vetoed (151) by the governor in December 2023.

87
88 Vetoed: S3100 (Ryan) / A1278 (Joyner) would have prohibited all prospective non-
89 compete provisions and created a cause of action for aggrieved individuals. The
90 governor vetoed the bill (133) in December 2023.

91
92 **Sugar Sweetened Beverages:** The following resolution was referred to the Council on
93 Governmental Affairs:

94
95 **29H-2023**
96 **Resolved,** that NYSDA urge all of its components to contact their respective state
97 legislators and local government representatives for the purpose of advocating for a
98 statewide and/or local tax on sugar sweetened beverages.

99
100 The Council reviewed the resolution submitted to the House of Delegates from New
101 York County Dental Society. It was noted that there is already a bill in the legislature
102 (S4874) that deals with this issue which the Association has monitored with a support
103 position for several years. NYSDA can provide a support memo for the bill as it relates
104 very closely to the 2023 HOD resolution.

105
106 **Advocacy Day:** On March 19-20, 2024, NYSDA held a successful Advocacy Day that
107 included students, residents and practicing dentists. The attendees had an opportunity
108 to hear from legislative stakeholders during a panel session and were later briefed on
109 our legislative priorities and met with their elected officials regarding three topics:
110 insurance reform, license modernization and new dentist assistance.

111
112 **Nomination of Council Chair:** The Council unanimously recommended Dr. Radha
113 Sachdeva-Munk (Suffolk County Dental Society) to incoming NYSDA President Dr.
114 Prabha Krishnan for appointment as Council Chair from the end of the 2024 House of
115 Delegates meeting through June 2025. If selected, this will be Dr. Sachdeva-Munk's first
116 term as Chair.