

TO: Chairman Berry and EAIC Members
FROM: The Montana Dental Hygienists' Association
RE: EAIC Draft Report and LCbrd
DATE: September 10, 2012

The MDHA remains very concerned regarding developments with the Board of Dentistry (BOD) and the following items presented by the EAIC.

Regarding Draft for HB 525 Semifinal Report:

Thank you for acknowledging in the introduction that there are "recurring complaints by two of the three professions". Former Senator Balyeat spoke regarding the history of complaints on the Board of Dentistry in January of 2012. He had served for 8 years and for 8 years there were recurring issues among the licensees of the BOD. It took him that long to see conflicts were not being resolved; hence he motioned to separate the BOD. With term limits as they are, if it takes every legislator 8 years to recognize the problem then the State of Montana will continue to waste taxpayer dollars listening.

We are sorry we the Committee did not have the opportunity to hear testimony from either the dentist or the dental hygienist members of the BOD at the January or June hearings. Since these members are bound by BOD obligation, they could not give public testimony to share their knowledge of the current BOD culture. We attend each BOD meeting and see the frustration that these members experience.

Lastly, regarding the establishment of the dental hygiene subcommittee:

The first meeting of the DH subcommittee was on July 31st. Not enough time has elapsed for the EAIC to determine that the subcommittee is effectively addressing the complaints which have plagued the BOD. Any action taken as a result of SB525 should be evaluated and **LCbrd** takes that evaluation away. **The MDHA strongly urges you to reject the proposed LCbrd.**

Please consider the following:

- The MDHA asked for the DH subcommittee to review all dental hygiene issues, that request was denied by the BOD.
- On July 31st a DH subcommittee recommendation was tabled at the suggestion of the BOD Chair to seek further information.
- At the September 7th BOD meeting the same recommendation of the subcommittee failed. This has been the only recommendation to come out of the committee. The resulting adoption was a recommendation that was submitted by the Montana Dental Association.
- Currently there are no scheduled meetings of the subcommittee although there are 3 items waiting for a determination.

MDHA has complied with the EAIC recommendations, but it seems your current recommendations will return the BOD to status quo. If the EAIC recommends adoption of LCbrd due to fiscal responsibilities, the MDHA would ask for a review of the BOD during the 2014 interim along with the remaining 17 licensing boards under review.

Tonette Hollingsworth, RDH, BSDH
MDHA President Elect