

March 29, 2021

HB1151 – Committee Hearing 3-30-2021

Senate Human Services Committee

Honorable members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

My name is Bev Marsh. I live in the Fargo area, and work as a dental hygienist in a general dental practice in Fargo, ND. I also serve as the dental hygiene member on the ND Board of Dental Examiners. I am representing myself and submitting written testimony in opposition to amendments of HB1151 43-28-03, State Board of dental examiners-Members-Appointment-Term of office-Oath-Vacancies.

I am opposed to Section 2 amendment of a board member ‘must include at least one of whom is ....oral and maxillofacial surgeon’. Why should that specialty be given preference over any other specialty or general dentist? The board was/is fortunate enough to have oral surgeons serve past and present but this could be extremely limiting in the future. There is not a guarantee that an oral surgeon would be willing to serve in future years, thus forcing the current oral surgeon to serve until a successor is appointed or having a vacancy which can’t be filled. It’s neither practical nor realistic to put this in our Century Code. I urge you to strike/oppose this requirement.

I am opposed to Section 4 amendment ‘Employ and compensate an executive director, who must be an attorney or a dentist’. The board already has an appointed attorney who provides excellent guidance to the members. Employing an attorney could increase costs due to a high probable salary which would increase the licensure dues of all dental professionals. It’s just not necessary and will not benefit the board. The board’s executive director should have knowledge in the dental profession. In regards to the dentist, again why should a dentist be given preference? There are extremely competent dental hygienists or dental assistants who could do the job and by listing ‘dentist’ only, it limits the pool of potential candidates. It could also be construed as professional discrimination. I urge you to strike/oppose this requirement.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

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