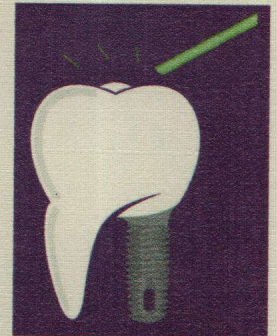


***The Clinic for Oral Health***  
***Dr. Judith K. Schmidt, D.D.S., P.C.***



02.11.2025

Workforce Development Committee  
North Dakota Legislative Branch  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: SB 2217

Senators Wobbema, Axtman, Boschee, Larson, and Powers,

I would like to introduce myself. I am Dr. Judy Schmidt, a dentist in private practice in Wahpeton, ND. I am writing to you regarding SB 2217 which was filed by Senator Cleary on behalf of the ND Board of Dentistry.

I have been practicing dentistry in my home state of ND since 2007. I started a solo practice in Wahpeton and continue to enjoy the profession of dentistry there. Through the past 17 ½ years, I have contacted the ND Board of Dentistry for questions or clarifications on multiple occasions. Each time, I have found the Board to be very approachable, responsive, and welcoming of discussion.

In 2024, the Board reviewed all of the laws pertaining to dentistry. They were very transparent and forthcoming in their communications during this process. We were emailed updates, proposed changes and encouraged to submit our opinions, suggestions, and concerns or to attend the meetings. The meeting dates were also noted in the communications.

One of the areas that they very thoroughly reviewed and made updates to was the laws regarding the sedation of patients. I am a moderate sedation provider and have held that permit since 2008. There have been changes & updates over the years but I feel the thorough review that was done in 2024 truly demonstrates the Boards commitment to protect the patients we serve and hold providers to the necessary standards. As a moderate provider, I was aware of concerns by some providers regarding the increased requirements that were being proposed to maintain that licensure. The Board heard the

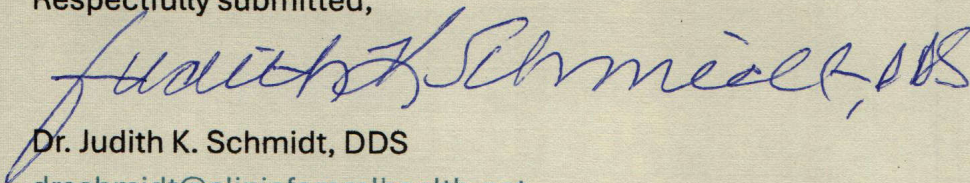


many opinions. In keeping with the Board's duty to establish continued competency regulations, they did add additional training that will be necessary to update every 5 years. They increased the frequency of mock codes, further clarified necessary qualified staffing to be present, and made some medication clarifications for moderate vs. deep or general anesthesia. I am strongly supportive of this and respect the Board's decision.

In the current SB 2217 that has been filed, there is an additional allowance of time to renew a dentist, dental assistant, or dental hygiene license. If a licensee should decide to retire or for some other reason not renew their license by December 31 of the respective year, there has been allowance to renew within 60 days of the expiration. The Board has now proposed an allowance for renewal up to 1 year after expiring, upon submission of an increased fee and any documents requested by the Board. I feel this is an important addition as the dental workforce is very short of providers (dentists, assistants, and hygienists). There are many events in life that may occur and an individual may elect to step away from dentistry but elect to return within a short period. Also, with the opening of additional dental assisting and dental hygiene schools in Minot and Bismarck, if there are any recently retired or expired licensees who would decide to become educators in one of the schools, this would open that door to them much more readily. As an employer, it also allows more potential people one could contact regarding coverage for maternity leaves or other openings if the employer is willing to assist in the fee for renewal.

Overall, I feel SB 2217 is strongly supportive of the practice of dentistry in the State of North Dakota. I feel David Schaibley and the board members at the ND Board of Dentistry have filed a bill that strongly supports the dental profession and has recognized changes that have become necessary. I would ask for your full support of SB 2217.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith K. Schmidt, DDS". The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a small flourish at the end.

Dr. Judith K. Schmidt, DDS

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