

Lauren Rice
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LD 2030

I am writing in support of the LD 2030 proposal as an Independent Practice Dental Hygienist myself. Our profession has continued to make strides and expand in a positive direction while strongly maintaining relationships with dentists in our communities. We have recognized the benefit of collaboratively working together as professionals to improve access to care and the comfort of our patients. I feel strongly this proposal is one that is included in these efforts. For years, dental hygienists have provided local anesthesia and nitrous oxide options to patients under the general supervision of our employer. As the IPDH profession continues to expand, so are the number of patients requiring or requesting additional support for procedures like scaling and root planing, isolated areas of discomfort, dental anxiety, and more. Our profession thoughtfully considers the responsibility we have in managing these adjunct services with care and attention. We have received proper training for administering local anesthesia and nitrous oxide and are required to carry malpractice insurance that would protect us in light of an unfortunate circumstance involving these products. Our patients deserve the same comfort options at their local IPDH practice to better increase access to care. Some people will only go to offices that have these options available. Many offices in our state are not accepting new patients. As this becomes more common, so will be our residents' need to seek out IPDH care. I truly appreciate the time the legislature is taking to review this matter out of respect for our profession and our patients. Thank you.