



INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE WITH SUPERVISION LEVEL CHANGES FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS

SUPPORT

SB 446 by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla)
HB 225 by Rep. Fred Costello (R-DeLand)

Background: The Florida Dental Association (FDA) and the Florida Dental Hygiene Association (FDHA) are aware and concerned with the access to dental care challenges in Florida. The FDA has been working with the FDHA on joint legislation that will increase access to dental care in health access settings. Health access settings as defined in s. 466.003 (14), F.S., includes programs and institutions of the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Juvenile Justice, nonprofit community health centers, Head Start centers, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), FQHC look-alikes as defined by federal law, and clinics operated by accredited colleges of dentistry in this state.

The legislation does the following:

- Allows dental hygienists to apply fluorides, dental sealants and instruct patients in oral hygiene care in health access settings without the prior authorization or supervision of a dentist.
- Allows dental hygienists to perform dental cleanings in health access settings with medical clearance by a licensed dentist or physician prior to the cleaning and a dental examination by a dentist within 13 months following a cleaning.
- Broadens the definition of health access settings to include school-based prevention programs.
- Encourages the establishment of a dental home.

The FDA and FDHA are encouraged that this legislation will allow for more access to preventive dental care for Floridians while ensuring patient protection.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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