

February 12, 2015

Senator Kathy Campbell, Chair  
Health and Human Services Committee  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

RE: LB 80 – Provide, change, and eliminate anesthesia and sedation permit provisions under the Dentistry Practice Act

Dear Senator Campbell and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health, has reviewed LB 80 which proposes updates in the dental anesthesia statutes to be more in line with the American Dental Association Guidelines for the Use of Sedation and General Anesthesia by Dentists.

LB 80 does not address the standards of training, education or competency assistive personnel would be required to satisfy other than being currently certified in basic life-support skills, nor does it address who would be monitoring a patient who has received dental anesthesia. For dental anesthesia to be safe for patients, all persons involved in providing it must be appropriately trained for the role they play.

Two related proposals for credentialing dental auxiliaries are currently pursuing a credentialing review under the Nebraska Regulation of Health Professions Act. One proposal was submitted by the Nebraska Dental Hygienists Association, and a second proposal was submitted by the Nebraska Dental Assistants Association and the Nebraska Dental Association. Both proposals are seeking a change in scope of practice for dental hygienists and for dental assistants to become a credentialed profession.

Please also see the attached credentialing review report:

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's issues regarding LB 80.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Acierno, MD, JD  
Chief Medical Officer  
Director, Division of Public Health

Cc: Senator Mike Gloor