

Dear 407 Committee for the Dental Auxiliaries' Technical Review,

I wanted to comment on working as a dental assistant in Nebraska after serving in the military. I served as a Dental Tech in the United States Navy for 8 years. During my service I was trained to support the mission of providing the best patient care possible. I feel that in the civilian sector the mission is the same. As part of the professional development planning on active duty I was encouraged to gain the DANB credential and attend expanded functions training. This dental specific training varied from the use of materials-to the expanded functions of placing and finishing these materials on the patients. Routinely groups of us were sent to take the California radiology class. I took this training as a part of how my professional life would be, or the norm.

When I moved back to rural Nebraska in 2004 I was hired because of my educational background and credential by a group practice with multiple OJT assistants. I felt as if the expanded functions I had mastered to make patient care delivery more efficient were going unused. I could see ways to make our patient care more efficient-simply by utilizing the expanded function dental assistant. Additionally, I was unclear if I could or if I couldn't perform these tasks as there was little legal clarity. Asking questions of those having worked chairside in Nebraska I found that the variance of delegated duties and expanded functions was wide. This seemed to be of personal/professional opinion which varies from office to office. I think that this is alarming.

If I have training, knowledge and a skill gained in the service of our country I should be allowed to use it when my service is complete. This currently does not happen in Nebraska, but would be possible with the NDA/NDAA proposal.

Respectfully,

Jill M. Day, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, BGS