



## Washington Dental Access Campaign Statement on Mid-level Providers

October 12, 2012

Out-of-date laws in our state are keeping Washingtonians from receiving the oral health care that is vital to their overall health. Modernizing our laws will free up dentists with a [proven workforce-based solution](#): a mid-level oral health care provider who will deliver the routine care and oral health education that families need.

For two years a group of consumer advocates, health care associations and practitioners – the Washington Dental Access Campaign – has worked to bring a [proven solution](#) to Washington's families.

Our advocacy has prompted the Washington State Dental Association (WSDA) to acknowledge that change is coming. In response, the WSDA has come up with a workforce model of its own creation. Their proposal shortchanges families in two ways.

First, it excludes routine preventive care and dental procedures that mid-level dental providers safely deliver in other states – including procedures that alleviate patients' pain. Second, it sustains the dental system's current shortcomings by preventing dentists from extending care to where people need it most, in their own communities.

These shortcomings mean that the WSDA's proposal won't expand access to care.

The Washington Dental Access Campaign remains committed to an [evidence-based workforce solution](#) that frees up dentists to provide the oral health care kids and families need.

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