



June 12, 2020

Dr. Richard Nagy, President
California Dental Association
1201 K Street, 14th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Nagy:

The directors of the California Association of Orthodontists would like to convey our disappointment at the CDA's recent actions related to AB 1998.

The CDA staff had previously shared concern surrounding the bill's language that included an in-person requirement and its impact on the virtual dental home model. The American Association of Orthodontists, also representing the viewpoint of the CAO, indicated support for the CDA amendments if the in-person language remained. The CDA moved forward with supporting amendments to remove the in-person language, and subsequently released an article that states the CDA, "believes that safe dental care can be provided under the right conditions without an in-person examination by the treating dentist." The American Association of Orthodontists policy staff then offered language to the CDA that would explicitly protect the virtual care model, while still maintaining the "in-person" language that member orthodontists feel is the strongest and most critical addition to the protections already provided in AB 1519. That language was refused.

Ultimately, this is a bill related to orthodontics, and it is deeply troubling that the CDA would lobby for action that does not align with the treatment that orthodontists have clearly stated is in the best interest of patients, as have CDA members both generalist and specialist. While the new protections offered in AB 1998 are favorable, without the language requiring an in-person evaluation, they are largely redundant with what is already established in AB 1519.

We are stronger when we stand together. Abandoning the interests of your orthodontic constituents and forcing member orthodontists to take a position in opposition to the CDA does not serve patient interests and limits efforts to move needed regulations forward. We strongly urge that you reconsider the CDA position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katie Bales, President
Dr. Boyd Martin, President-Elect
Dr. Bahar Ghafouri, Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Mary Cooke, Immediate Past President
Dr. Sam Berro, Director
Dr. Rita Chuang, Director

Dr. Harry Dougherty, Director
Dr. Jeff Kwong, Director
Dr. Mark Rashidi, Director
Dr. Chris Roncone, Director
Dr Sheldon Salins, Director

Cc: Mary McCune, Legislative & Regulatory Advocate, California Dental Association
Brianna Pittman-Spencer, Legislative Director, California Dental Association