



American
Association of
Orthodontists®



CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION *of*
ORTHODONTISTS

CAO & AAO FOURTH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA LOBBY DAY

APRIL 2, 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL MEMO

RE: Update from the American Association of Orthodontists on State-Level In-Person Exam Requirements

As part of its ongoing commitment to patient safety, the **American Association of Orthodontists (AAO)** continues to advocate across the country for in-person orthodontic examinations before any treatment begins. This measure is critical in ensuring that orthodontic care is delivered responsibly, based on appropriate diagnosis and a full understanding of patient health.

Below is an updated summary of recent developments in state legislation requiring in-person exams before the initiation of orthodontic treatment:

AAO POSITION ON IN-PERSON ORTHODONTIC EXAMS

AAO strongly supports the requirement of in-person exams before any orthodontic treatment. Direct-to-consumer orthodontic models that bypass clinical evaluations present serious risks to patients, including misdiagnosis, delayed identification of oral health issues, and poor treatment outcomes. In-person diagnostic exams remain the gold standard for safe, effective orthodontic care.

RECENT LEGISLATIVE UPDATES BY STATE

Nevada

In 2023, Nevada became the first state to pass a law requiring in-person exams prior to orthodontic treatment. This was included in Assembly Bill 147, part of Nevada's broader "modernization of dentistry" initiative.

Florida

In 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 855 into law, requiring that a dentist conduct or review an in-person exam before beginning diagnosis or treatment, including orthodontics.

Illinois

Senate Bill 2586, signed into law in 2024, mandates that an in-person examination and review of the patient's medical records take place before orthodontic treatment can begin.

Georgia

Although the Governor vetoed the 2024 version of House Bill 441 (which included in-person exam requirements), the legislation has been reintroduced in 2025. It has already passed the Georgia House and the Senate Health Committee and is now awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.

Utah

In March 2025, Governor Spencer Cox signed into law a new bill backed by AAO requiring an in-person exam prior to initiating orthodontic treatment—making Utah the latest state to adopt this important patient safety measure.

West Virginia

A bill requiring an in-person exam before treatment via teledentistry has cleared the Senate and is expected to be heard soon in the House Health Committee.

These legislative wins demonstrate the growing momentum behind patient-centered reforms that prioritize safety, transparency, and clinical accountability. The AAO will continue to support efforts in California and other states to adopt similar standards and close regulatory gaps that continue to put patients at risk.