



CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

September 11, 2006

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Regarding SB 1541 (Ducheny)
Position: Support

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry strongly supports the signing of SB 1541, which will preserve a necessary work-experience pathway to the recently-enacted specialty categories of dental assistant licensure. A system of dental auxiliary licensing that provides for formal educational programs in community colleges and private vocational schools, as well as on-the-job-training under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist meeting the very same detailed and comprehensive curriculum requirements, assures universal access to the economic ladder of a professional dental career. This is crucial to those unable to afford the costs of formal education. SB 1541 will put into place a process of outcome evaluation and testing that assures all licensed auxiliaries, regardless of educational route, are professionally qualified and competent.

Especially important to those auxiliary personnel entering the profession with the expectation of assisting in the treatment of infants, toddlers, and young children, the formal education process in community colleges and vocational schools cannot provide training comparable to on-the-job instruction and experience available in a pediatric dental practice setting.

Please support continuation of the proven “earn and learn” work experience pathway to dental auxiliary education and licensing.

Martin Steigner,
President, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

c: Officers and Directors, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Paul Reggiardo, Public Policy Advocate, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Mel Rowan, Executive Director, California Society of Pediatric Dentistry

The California Society of Pediatric Dentistry is the professional organization representing California's nearly 600 pediatric dental care specialists in teaching, research and clinical practice. Our mission is to advocate optimal oral health and general welfare of infants, children, adolescents and persons with special needs.