



STATE OF DELAWARE  
**STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
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Dover, Delaware 19901  
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The Honorable John Carney,  
Governor

John McNeal, Director  
SCPD

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: May 27, 2022

TO: House Health & Human Development Committee

FROM: Terri Hancharick, Chairperson *TH*  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: SB 277, A Bill to Amend Titles 14 and 16 Related to Dentistry

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed the important initiative, SB 277, which addresses the acute problem of recruiting dentists to work in federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and other government-funded clinics. The goal of SB 277 is to combat the dentist shortage in Delaware.<sup>1,2</sup>

SCPD supports this regulation, because:

- The current system does not allow reciprocity for dentists licensed in other states. To practice in Delaware requires a specific written and practical exam as well as a yearlong internship.
- Individuals with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities struggle to find dentists in Delaware with specialized training.<sup>3</sup>
- FQHCs have had to close down dental clinics in some areas because of difficulty of recruitment and retention issues related to restrictive licensing. SB 277 would provide dentists treating underserved populations through FQHCs and government clinics a “community health license” as well as an opportunity to obtain a full license after working 3600 hours over a two-year period.
- SB 277 would also create a Dental Care Access Task Force to further examine among other issues dental care access, licensure, scope of practice, and recruitment and retention strategies.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our position or comments on the proposed regulation.

cc: DPH Director, Dr. Karyl Rattay  
Ms. Laura Waterland, Esq., DLP  
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens  
Developmental Disabilities Council

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.delawareonline.com/story/life/2018/01/23/delaware-dentists-oppose-states-suggestion-dentists-working-mandatory-del-residency-oppose-suggestion/1013056001/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/charts/9?state=DE>

<sup>3</sup> <https://delawaretoday.com/life-style/health/dentistry-with-a-difference/>