



MDHA Legislative Priorities 2017

1. **HB 297 (Sponsored by Rep. Donna Lichtenegger-R-Jackson)**

<http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills171/hrbillspdf/0966H.011.pdf>

Allows for a written agreement and partnership between a Missouri licensed dentist and dental hygienist so the dental hygienist can provide currently allowed preventive dental hygiene services without the presence of a dentist directly to patients at sites beyond the dental office setting to increase access. No new procedures are allowed. Services include: Scaling and polishing; periodontal root planning/debridement; non-surgical periodontal procedures (placing dressings and removing dressings/sutures); dental radiographs; dental sealants; topical fluoride; services dental assistants can perform; and, other procedures approved by the Missouri Dental Board.

The dentist is still in charge based on the terms of the written agreement. Extended access would be an option some dentists may choose to utilize for underserved citizens.

The extended access agreement will require specific protocols; a description of allowed services; consulting responsibilities of the partnering dentist with the dental hygienist; record maintenance; an emergency management plan; and, referral procedures.

No more than three written agreements are allowed by either dentists or hygienists.

The dentist would be required to perform an exam after 12 months of treatment by the dental hygienist. The RDH would have to work within a 60-mile radius of the dentist.

Professional liability insurance and additional updated courses for the dental hygienist will be required. Nineteen states are successfully utilizing these types of partnering agreements.

2. **Adult Dental Benefits:** MDHA would like to continue these benefits to be in the state budget for MO HealthNet permanently. Trips to the emergency room for dental care are costly.