

Print Hearing, Monday February 3, 2020  
Senate Health and Welfare Committee  
RS27462

Good afternoon, my name is Elizabeth Criner and I am here today on behalf of the Idaho State Dental Association for the introduction of RS 27462.

This legislation amends the Dental Practice Act in two sections of Idaho Code -- 54-901 and 54-924 -- to accommodate the advancement of teledentistry in a manner that is transparent to patients, enhances patient protection and preserves the community standard of care provided to patients whether delivered in person or via teledentistry.

In section 54-901 - Language is added to the practice of dentistry to ensure that dentists practicing telehealth or teledentistry are doing so in accordance with the Telehealth Access Act (Title 54, Chapter 57), as well as in accordance with the community standard of care.

The bill also adds language requiring dentists to provide a patient with licensure and contact information.

The practice of dentistry is different from the practice of medicine, and in most instances a patient will need in-person care at some point. We want to make sure the patient is clearly informed and understands what they are paying for, what may be needed, and what may or may not be provided by the dentist they are working with via teledentistry. Therefore, the bill allows a dentist to either provide referral options for the patient or obtain a signed statement from the patient that they understand in-person care may be needed from another dentist.

In section 54-924 – the bill ensures parity between the provision of telehealth and in-person dental services. Regardless of the delivery method, these services must be provided in keeping with the community standard of care when a dentist is authorizing or performing dental procedures to correct the malposition of human teeth.

The bill also ensures a dentist cannot represent, contract with or be employed by an entity that would limit a patient's right to file a complaint with the State Board of Dentistry.

#### **FISCAL NOTE**

The Dental Practice Act is enforced by the Idaho State Board of Dentistry, which is self-funded; therefore, there is no fiscal impact to the state general fund or local government funds.