

MIDWESTERN SOCIETY OF ORTHODONTISTS

Component Report

Component Name: Iowa Society of Orthodontists

Submitted By (Director Name): Melissa Bernhardt

Component Officers/Trustees:

Jeremy Grabowski – President
Blair Smith – President-Elect
Karl Swenson – Vice-President
Clayton Parks – Secretary/Treasurer

Date of Report: 2/13/25

Ongoing Initiatives:

Legislative Efforts: The Iowa Dental Association will focus on three main issues during the 2025 legislative session:

1. Increase Medicaid Reimbursement – In the last 4 years, all the states bordering Iowa made significant investments in their dental Medicaid programs. In Iowa, Medicaid pays only 25-30 cents on the dollar.
2. Dental Insurance Reform including:
 - a. Retroactive Denial of Coverage – Limit the time frame dental insurers are able to request a refund for an erroneously-paid claim.
 - b. Prior Authorization Payments - Prohibit dental insurers from denying claims for procedures they previously approved unless certain extenuating circumstances exist.
 - c. ERISA Notification – Require dental insurers to easily identify if a plan is subject to Iowa law on the patient’s card and through the insurer’s provider portal.
3. Improve the Dental Workforce – 75% of Iowa dentists report a shortage of hygienists, assistants, or both in their offices.

New Initiatives:

Upcoming Meetings/Events (with dates): Iowa Society of Orthodontists Meeting in Iowa City, September 28-29, 2025; Speaker TBD

Other: At our meeting in October 2024, the membership approved our updated By-Laws.

The 15th annual Iowa Mission of Mercy (IMOM) was held October 4-5, 2024, in Sioux City. 4736 procedures were performed on 847 patients. The total dollar value of care provided amounted to \$777,924.

Do You Need the MSO Board of Directors to act on any Component-related business at this time? Yes/No (if yes, state below and it will be addressed at the next Board meeting): No