



Midwestern Society of Orthodontists

Electronic Newsletter Articles Spring 2025

A compilation of the news articles that were posted on the MSO web site in Spring 2025.

MSO Components, page 2

MSO Components

ILLINOIS

Submitted By: Bronwen Richards

Component Officers/Trustees:

Officers:

President:	Dr. Ray Tsou
President-Elect:	Dr. Therese Galang
Vice President:	Dr. Andrew Clark
Secretary/Treasurer:	Dr. Dan Kelly
Immediate Past President:	Dr. Pranav Patel

Trustees:

Dr. Bronwen Richards	Dr. Ben Youel	Dr. Jahnavi Rao
Dr. Clarence Red	Dr. Samim Taraji	Dr. Lauren Pass

Date of Report: Ad Interim March 7, 2025

Ongoing Initiatives: Continue to increase attendance at ISO meetings and find ways to reduce expenses. Shifted our meetings from a hotel based venue to a conference space in Maggiano's. The size was nice to accommodate speakers and attendees with exhibitors in part of the space. Offering a social hour after the CE course and business meeting has helped to reconnect members as we still continue to reframe our expectations in the post covid environment. In 2024, the second meeting was substituted with the MSO Annual Session since MSO was being held in Chicago area.

Legislative Efforts:

Capital Conference – April 30, 2025

Summary of 2024 Legislation

Landmark legislative session championing successful initiatives that enhance the practice and access to dental care across Illinois. Victories in advancing DIY teeth straightening regulations, safeguarding essential insurance coverage for jaw injuries, and defending against the licensure of dental therapists

SB 3305 ISDS Secured Insurance Coverage for Jaw Injury Treatments to include oral surgery, dental implants, crowns, bridges, prosthetic treatment, orthodontic treatment and prosthodontic treatment – awaiting governor signature after passing house and senate

HB 5317 Extension for Electronic Claims Submissions Requirements (was postponed to 1-1-26)

HB 4789 Streamlining the authorization process so insurance companies have to

ISDS Achieves Patient Protections with DIY Teeth Straightening Legislation

For the third year running, the Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) has been pushing legislation to regulate direct-to-consumer orthodontic products, ensuring they meet the same high standards as in-person dental care. This law is designed to ensure patients get the same quality of care, undergo thorough examinations, and fully understand the treatments they're receiving through teledentistry, just like they would in a traditional dentist's office. ISDS worked on this legislation with the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO).

This legislation involved intense discussions and negotiations, but ultimately, the bill passed despite the ongoing resistance. The next steps involve working with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) to develop detailed rules for implementing the law, a process we expect to be challenging due to the existing opposition.

We're proud of passing this critical legislation, which took three years of effort. It's a significant win for ensuring that teledentistry provides:

- **Quality Care:** Ensures that teledentistry meets in-person care standards, including thorough medical history reviews and x-rays.
- **Proper Examinations:** Mandates in-person exams before providing teledentistry services.
- **Informed Choices:** This guarantees patients' rights to file complaints and share experiences.

ISDS is now focusing on getting the Governor's approval for this law and continuing our discussions to ensure its effective implementation.

SB 2586 (Cunningham/Moeller): Passed the Senate and the House. Now awaits the Governor's signature.

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New Initiatives: Secure additional speaker for fall 2025 and continue to create opportunities for board engagement and outreach to members.

Upcoming Meetings/Events (with dates):

Chicago Dental Society

Feb 20-22, 2025. Midwinter Meeting

Illinois Society of Orthodontists

April 4, 2025 - Simplifying complex Malocclusions with Clear Aligners by Maz Moshiri

Followed by ISO Business meeting and a social hour

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

IOWA

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

MANITOBA

Submitted By (Director Name): Katherine Kazak

Component Officers/Trustees:

President: Alvaro Salles

Vice President: Tim Dumore

Treasurer: Katherine Kazak

Date of Report: February 21, 2025

Ongoing Initiatives:

- Orthodontists in Manitoba continue to participate in the Smiles4Canada initiative, which is currently collecting applications for 2025. As of February 14th, there have been 5 complete and 8 incomplete applications.
- The MOS continues to work with the Manitoba Dental Association to create an alternative pathway for dental assistants to obtain their orthodontic module qualifications. The proposed format would be composed of an online didactic and in-person practical curriculum.

Legislative Efforts:

- The CAO continues to work with the Canadian federal government with regards to the Canadian Dental Care Plan. The Ad Interim meeting for the CAO is planned for February 28th and more details will follow.

New Initiatives: TBD

Upcoming Meetings/Events (with dates):

- Canadian orthodontic residents are invited to attend SCOR in Toronto on March 1st to discuss topics related to business management, practice marketing, accounting, legal counseling, etc.
- The CAO 75th Annual Conference will be held in Québec City, QC from September 18th to 20th 2025.

Other: Concerns have been raised by local orthodontists with regards to growing tensions between the US and Canadian governments, specifically as it may affect the economy and costs of goods/services. The CAO is looking into strategies to minimize the impact on its members if tariffs are imposed between Canada/US. A letter was recently sent to industry partners to discuss how tariffs may impact the orthodontic community.

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

MINNESOTA

Submitted By (Director Name): Heather Horton

Component Officers/Trustees:

President – Dr. Becky Maher

President elect – Dr. Molly McMahon

Secretary/Treasurer – Dr. Abby Syverson

Director to the MSO – Dr. Heather Horton

Date of Report: 2/21/2025

Ongoing Initiatives:

- We had our state meeting on January 10th, 2025 at the InterContinental MSP. The all day speaker was Dino Watt. There was a great turnout of both doctors and orthodontic team members.
- Financially the MAO is in a good position, having covered the expenses of the state meeting with registrations and sponsorship/vendors.

Legislative Efforts:

- This past summer a new rule went into effect allowing unlicensed dental assistants in the state of Minnesota to take photos and digital scans under direct supervision. This, along with the stand-alone radiation course that is offered through the University of Minnesota, is now a pathway to have records technicians in the State of Minnesota.
- The radiation course that is offered at the University of Minnesota is a course that certifies the individual to take all types of dental radiographs, and is a fairly intensive course. The MAO board is considering possible recommendations for a course that would license an individual to be allowed to take extraoral radiographs only.
- Minnesota is in need of an AAOPAC state captain.

New Initiatives:

- The MAO approved a \$5000 sponsorship of the fall 2025 MSO annual session
- Dr. Becky Maher has selected the speakers for the 2026 MAO meeting – they will be Dr. Neal Kravitz and Dr. Ankur Gupta (both for half of the day)

Upcoming Meetings/Events (with dates):

- MAO state meeting, Friday, January 9th, 2026 InterContinental Hotel MSP

Other:

- At the MAO business meeting, Dr. Arnold Hill spoke on behalf of the Mayo residency program and informed membership that Mayo would be closing its residency program after the most recent resident graduates in 2026.

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

MISSOURI

Submitted By (Director Name): John Firth

Component Officers/Trustees: President: Amy Schulte, Secretary/Treasurer: Jeff Cavanaugh

Date of Report:2/21/2025

Ongoing Initiatives: NA

Legislative Efforts: NA

New Initiatives: NA

Upcoming Meetings/Events (with dates): We have an upcoming meeting in Minneapolis Minnesota on September 13th held in conjunction with the MSO meeting at Mall of America.

Other: Our Constituent meeting for 2024 was held in conjunction with the MSO meeting on October 25th in Rosemont Illinois. We had a light attendance. We as group from Missouri are hoping to raise our attendance numbers and recruit new young orthodontist to help in the future leadership of the MSO.

UMKC had 3 Graduates this year and SLU had 14 graduates in December. Not all of them stayed in Missouri but we did have a few. We are currently reaching out to them to get them active in organized Dentistry and Orthodontics.

We are also very proud of our own member Dr Michael LaFerla from Joplin Missouri who is currently the MSO President and working hard to organize and plan this year's meeting in Minnesota.

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):

We do not need anything from the Board at this time.

NEBRASKA

Submitted By (Director Name): Sumit Yadav

Component Officers/Trustees: Dr. Mike Durbin

Date of Report: 02/21/2025

Ongoing Initiatives:

Legislative Efforts: 1) To obtain dental license of Nebraska you need to have CRDTS. Legislative efforts are on the way to allow people with other standard exams (CDCA/ADEX) to obtain dental license. 2) To make Nebraska as one of the Compact states.

New Initiatives:

Upcoming Meetings/Events (with dates): NSO annual meeting on 2nd of May

Other:

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

NORTH DAKOTA

Submitted By (Director Name): Emerson Ehlis

Component Officers/Trustees: Emerson Ehlis, President
Jeremiah Danel, Secretary

Date of Report: February 23,2025

Ongoing Initiatives: Plan future state meeting and possible biannual with SD

Legislative Efforts:

- 1. HB 1471:** Mandates that Dental Insurance Companies report fees/load payments to dental offices and offer "Nonfee bearing/non load bearing" payment methods. Status: Passed ND House, awaiting Senate hearings.
- 2. HB 1481:** Requires Dental Insurance Carriers to spend at least 83% of premium funds on patient care. Status: Passed ND House, awaiting Senate hearings.
- 3. SB 2375:** Allows non-connected Dental Providers to jointly negotiate with Dental Carriers on contract terms through a Joint Negotiator. Status: Passed ND Senate, awaiting House hearings.
- 4. SB 2377:** Prohibits Dental Insurance Carriers from denying claims and prohibiting providers from collecting payment for provided services. Status: Passed ND Senate, awaiting House hearings.

New Initiatives: Identify future leaders and

Upcoming Meetings/Events (with dates): None

Other:

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

SOUTH DAKOTA

Submitted By (Director Name): Keri Barrow

Component Officers/Trustees: Ryan VanLaecken (president)

Date of Report: 2/21/2025

Ongoing Initiatives:

- Collaborate with North Dakota on a CE course??

Legislative Efforts:

- SB 133, the bill that would have repealed South Dakota's water fluoridation law, died in the South Dakota Senate on Monday with a vote of 12-22

New Initiatives:

Upcoming Meetings/Events (with dates): none

Other:

- New president has been elected: Dr. Brian Hohlen, term will begin in May of 2025

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

WISCONSIN

Submitted By (Director Name): John Kittleson

Component Officers/Trustees:

President

Dr. David Kennedy

President-elect

Dr. James Kolstad

Vice President

Dr. Melanie Hammerbeck

Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Nicolas Branshaw

Past President

Dr. Pam Hanson

Director to MSO

Dr. John Kittleson

Trustee

Dr. Alison Mantel

Trustee

Dr. Mark Hanson

Trustee

TBD

Date of Report: 3/7/2025

Legislative Efforts: Gov. Tony Evers signed several WDA-led bills into law. Legislation included:

- \$20 million to expand dental workforce training programs at Wisconsin technical colleges
- Interstate Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, supporting license portability by authorizing states to allow qualified dentists and dental hygienists to practice across state lines
- Assignment of Benefits, allowing individuals insured under a dental benefit plan to assign reimbursement directly to a dental provider
- Marquette University School of Dentistry Rural Scholarship Program, providing financial support for dental students who agree to practice in certain Wisconsin dental health shortage areas upon graduation
- The Marquette University School of Dentistry has received a \$1.37 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to establish the Open Dental Education Consortium to help standardize dental education and decrease the cost of tuition. With this award, MUSoD will form a consortium with Chippewa Valley Technical College and Milwaukee Area Technical College in Wisconsin, and Brigham Young University in Utah. The target population will be students of all levels of dental programs, including predoctoral DDS/DMD, dental hygiene and dental assisting.

New initiatives: 2025, the WDA Legislative Advocacy Committee is discussing policy recommendations on topics like virtual credit cards, network leasing, dental loss ratio (NCOIL model legislation), increasing access to care for patients with special needs, and returning supragingival scaling to the EFDA scope of practice.

Upcoming Meetings/Events (with dates): October 16-17 at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, WI featuring Landy Chase, the president of OrthoYES Online. He will be

presenting “The Team Approach to Case Acceptance: Key Components of a High-Value Consultation.”

Do You Need the MSO Board of Directors to act on any Component-related business at this time? No