



michigan dental
ASSOCIATION
YOUR CONNECTION TO ORAL HEALTH

State Representative Ann Bollin
N-891 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Bollin,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Michigan Dental Association (MDA) and our 6,000 member dentists in opposition of House Bill 4355. To be clear, we support the utilization of telehealth, or in our case “teledentistry,” to increase access to health and dental care. However, we firmly believe that health professionals performing telehealth and teledentistry in Michigan need to be licensed in Michigan.

Requiring a Michigan license for dentists, and all health professionals, to perform telehealth services is critical to protecting Michigan patients. There are many instances in which a patient can be harmed by irresponsible telehealth services in the dental field. In these instances, without licensure, Michigan would have no method of disciplining or holding the out-of-state providers accountable.

In addition, we find it frustrating that House Bill 4355 is included in a package of bills that contains legislation to license out-of-state pharmacy benefit managers, House Bill 4348. On one hand, the House Health Policy Committee is considering requiring pharmacy benefit managers who provide services in Michigan to be licensed, but not health professionals. The MDA believes health professionals should be held to the highest standard.

The MDA welcomes the conversation and policy proposals regarding safe and effective use of telehealth technology in Michigan. When done safely, telehealth and teledentistry is a cost effective tool in increasing access to health and dental care. However, allowing unlicensed health professionals to practice dentistry in Michigan is not safe for patients.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Sullivan, MDA Vice President of Advocacy and Professional Relations, at 517-346-9405 or bsullivan@michigandental.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Meraw".

Steve Meraw, DDS
MDA President

CC:
House Health Policy Chairwoman Bronna Kahle
House Health Policy members