

GRADE	SUBJECT & COURSE DESCRIPTION	EXTRA CREDIT
	<b>Medicaid Dental Funding</b> TDA secured <b>\$140 million in new Medicaid funding</b> , the first increase since 2007, to boost reimbursement for commonly billed Medicaid codes that directly support our dentists and patients.	Enhanced reimbursement for these critical Medicaid codes <b>strengthens provider participation</b> and <b>expands patient access to care</b> for those who need it most.
	<b>Unfair Insurance Tactics</b> TDA <b>blocked harmful legislation (HB 335)</b> that sought to remove equal payment mandates for dentists treating patients outside their insurance network.	This uniform payment standard <b>preserves fairness, transparency,</b> and <b>patient choice</b> , allowing Texans to select the dentist of their choice without facing surprise costs or reduced coverage.
	<b>DIY Ortho Safeguards</b> TDA teamed up with the Texas Association of Orthodontists to pass <b>HB 4070</b> , mandating an <b>in-person exam</b> by a Texas-licensed dentist before any orthodontic appliance is sold or prescribed.	Requiring a thorough clinical evaluation by a qualified professional upholds <b>high standards of care and safety</b> in an increasingly digital and direct-to-consumer market.
	<b>Pediatric Anesthesia Coverage</b> TDA partnered with the Texas Academy of Pediatric Dentistry to pass <b>SB 527</b> , mandating <b>insurance coverage</b> for general anesthesia in <b>medically necessary</b> pediatric dental procedures.	This life-changing victory ensures children with physical, mental, or medical conditions receive <b>safe, effective, and equitable dental care</b> without financial barriers.
	<b>Aesthetic Botox by Dentists</b> TDA pushed for <b>SB 1117</b> to allow dentists to administer Botox for aesthetic purposes. Despite strong efforts, the bill did not pass this year, but TDA will <b>continue this push next session</b> .	Dentists possess deep expertise in facial anatomy, making them <b>exceptionally qualified</b> to perform these procedures. Texans deserve <b>expanded access to safe aesthetic care</b> .
	<b>Community Water Fluoridation</b> TDA strongly <b>opposed SB 2653</b> which would have <b>banned community water fluoridation</b> , preserving one of the most effective public health measures to prevent tooth decay.	Adding fluoride to public water systems at the optimal level remains a <b>safe, effective, and equitable</b> strategy for preventing tooth decay across all populations.
	<b>Funding for Loan Repayment</b> TDA fought to restore funding for the <b>Dental Education Loan Repayment Program (DELRP)</b> , which would help dentists with loan repayments to <b>serve in rural and underserved areas</b> , but budget constraints blocked our efforts.	Restoring DELRP funding is a <b>critical investment</b> to address Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas statewide, and TDA will renew this charge next session.
	<b>Dental Insurance Reform</b> TDA pushed for <b>SB 1090</b> to stop insurance companies from using <b>bundling and downcoding</b> , which cut payments to dentists and raise patient costs. Despite dedicated efforts, the bill didn't advance this session.	TDA pursues <b>essential insurance reform</b> every session and will reintroduce this legislation in 2027 to curb these harmful practices.

## ARE YOU A TDA MEMBER?



Thanks to the support of our members, the Texas Dental Association has won important victories for Texas dentists and patients. These successes wouldn't be possible without the involvement of our members. **We need your membership to preserve the strength of our organization.**

If you're not a member but appreciate the way TDA stands up for you and your patients, we invite you to join us. Just scan the QR code or call us at 512-443-3675, ext. 137.

For more information about these issues and others, scan this QR code or visit

[TDA.ORG/ADVOCACY/ADVOCACY-NEWS](https://TDA.ORG/ADVOCACY/ADVOCACY-NEWS)



# **TDA MAKES THE GRADE!**

See inside for Dentistry's Legislative Report Card



## Report Card

89<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS LEGISLATURE



**TDA worked tirelessly to deliver major wins for Texas dentists, their patients, and the future of oral health.**

- Achieved Medicaid Dental Funding Increase
- Stopped Unfair Insurance Tactics Targeting Dentists
- Secured New Safeguards for DIY Orthodontic Appliances
- Championed Anesthesia Coverage for Kids Who Need It Most
- Defended Community Water Fluoridation
- **and more!**