

SUPPORT SB 384 BY SEN. KOLKHORST

Common Sense Consumer Protection for Clear Aligners

What are Clear Aligners?

Direct-to-consumer aligner therapy is a type of orthodontic treatment utilizing a clear aligner to place pressure on an individual's teeth to move them into specific positions.

What is the Danger?

The concern is that many individuals who purchase clear aligners directly from companies may not be appropriate candidates due to underlying oral health problems, which cannot be determined through remote methods or teledentistry alone. ***Aligning teeth without considering underlying problems can exacerbate existing dental conditions or lead to new ones.***

The Importance of Direct Dentist Involvement

Without a dentist's direct involvement, individuals may not fully understand their treatment plan options or the potential risks associated with treatment, and accepted standards of care for orthodontic treatment may not be met. ***Dentists' direct involvement is crucial to ensure Texans receive safe and effective direct-to-consumer clear aligner therapy.***

The Need for SB 384

Under SB 384, before the direct sale or design of a clear aligner, dentists would conduct in-person clinical dental examinations to determine whether patients are suitable candidates for clear aligner therapy and inform patients of their treatment options and the associated risks. ***SB 384 is a common sense patient protection bill.***