

2025 VDA Highlights

From fighting for legislation to advance and protect the profession, to addressing Virginia's workforce shortages head on, the VDA works every day on behalf of our members. Thank you for your commitment to dentistry, together, we made a big impact in 2025 for the profession and patients across the Commonwealth.

Legislative and Lobbying Success

License To Teach Dentistry; Foreign Dental Program Graduates; Repeal Sunset. Allows the Board of Dentistry to grant, without examination, a faculty license to teach dentistry in an accredited dental program to a graduate of a dental school or college or the dental department of an institution of higher education in a foreign country.

Health insurance; carrier business practices; method of payment for transactions. Requires a health insurance carrier to notify the provider in a provider contract if the carrier uses a payment method that imposes a transaction or processing fee on the provider and offers the provider an alternative payment method that does not impose such a fee.

Dentists & Dental Hygienists; Work Group to Assess Expedited Pathways For Licensure, Report. Directs the Board of Dentistry to convene a work group including the VDA and the VDHA to assess expedited pathways for licensure for dentists and dental hygienists.



Workforce Initiatives

The VDA has spent tireless hours and resources devoted to relieving and addressing the allied dental professional shortage throughout the Commonwealth.

- Produced ongoing analysis and updates around the workforce crisis
- Worked with VCCS to prioritize dental hygiene programs across the state
- Supported FORTIS Richmond's application to CODA in furtherance of establishing a new dental hygiene program
- Participated in middle school and high school career events around the state that have reached more than 16,000 students
- Co-hosted a widely attended career fair at the VCU School of Dentistry
- Urged CODA to allow additional flexibility for hygienists with two-year degrees to serve as clinical faculty and for internationally educated dentists and hygienists to serve as dental hygiene faculty



START LISTENING

Podcast

The VDA created *The Fulcrum Podcast* in 2025 to explore important topics affecting dentistry through thoughtful discussion and personal perspectives. Additionally, the VDA created a show on The Fulcrum called *The Drill* for a quick overview of the activities of the VDA. *The Drill* is designed to let members know, “What is the VDA doing for me?” Throughout the year, 19 podcast episodes were released with over 480 minutes of content and more than 1400 downloads.



Media Coverage

The VDA successfully raised the profile of oral health issues across the Commonwealth with earned media campaigns leading to over 24 million impressions throughout 2025. Workforce challenges and staffing shortages were the top stories promoted throughout the year to highlight this important issue before the 2026 Legislative Session.

The Virginia Dental Academy

A new cohort of front office team members became Certified Dental Office Professionals after completing a year-long program through the Virginia Dental Academy. This program is designed to enhance office efficiency and foster a community of front office professionals. Stay tuned for an updated program in 2026 connected to the VDA's new Affiliate Membership for front office team members.



Virginia Dental Journal

The Journal received two national awards for content and design and was transitioned to a digital format with interactive content and an RSS feed.



ISSUE ARCHIVE

DENTAL INSURANCE GRIEVANCE TRACKER

DIG Tracker

The Dental Insurance Grievance (DIG) Tracker collects critical information on dental insurance issues. The VDA has met with Delta Dental, Anthem and the VA Bureau of Insurance related to items that have been submitted into the DIG Tracker and is working to achieve system-level improvements on issues impacting dental practices.

SUBMIT AN ISSUE TO THE DIG TRACKER