

Members

William A. Klank, DDS  
President

Terry L. Oatney  
Secretary

David G. Edwards, DDS

Don E. Skoff, DDS

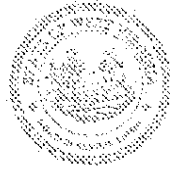
S. Vincent Noye, DDS

John E. Boggs, DDS

C. Richard Ombet, DDS

Gina Sharps, MPH, BSF-H

Kimberly A. Lown, BDA



WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY

1319 Robert C. Byrd Drive

PO Box 1447

Charlottesville, WV 25227-1447

(304) 252-8266

FAX (304) 253-9454

Toll Free (877) 914-8266

[www.wvdentalboard.org](http://www.wvdentalboard.org)

[wvdentalboard@wvdentalboard.org](mailto:wvdentalboard@wvdentalboard.org)

Staff

Steven M. Combs  
Executive Director

Christina M. Lester  
Administrative Assistant

October 3, 2025

sent via email: [nmick@aaortho.org](mailto:nmick@aaortho.org)

Nathan Mick  
Vice President of Advocacy  
American Association of Orthodontists  
401 North Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63141-7816

**RE: Public Comment on Proposed Rule 5CSR9**

Dear Mr. Mick:

The WV Board of Dentistry has received and reviewed your comments concerning the Board's proposed rules for application procedures and thank you for your attention and commitment to the public's best interest.

The Board responds to your comments as follows:

1. "We encourage the Board, in implementing §5-19-15, to make explicit that registrants under this section remain subject to West Virginia's continuing professional obligations, including standards of care, record keeping requirements, continuing education, and disciplinary oversight. Do so will underscore that the regulatory responsibilities of out-of-state providers mirror those imposed upon in-state licensees."

**Response:**

These rules provide guidance for application procedures and are procedural rules. Procedural rules would not be the appropriate place to implement regulatory responsibilities. Such language would need to be included in a different series of rules that are legislative rules.

2. "In addition, it would be helpful to provide clarity on renewal procedures for

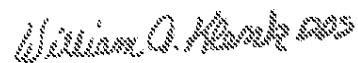
interstate telehealth registrations, ensuring that practitioners remain accountable over time. Finally, we encourage the Board to consider requiring that patients be clearly informed when they are receiving care from a dentist licensed in another state, but registered in West Virginia, through telehealth, including disclosure of the provider's identity and the inherent limitations of remote treatment. Such transparency will promote trust and reinforce patient safety."

**Response:**

Renewals are not part of this rule and would be placed in a different series of rules. Requiring practitioners to inform patients of their telehealth registration status would be more regulatory and included in a legislative rule.

The Board will review rules again in the future, including, but not limited to the rule concerning teledentistry, which is 5CSR16. Again, we thank you for your comments and your commitment to the public health, safety and welfare.

Respectfully,



William A. Klenk, DDS  
President

WAK/smc

cc: Lance Pittman, DDS, MS  
President, West Virginia Association of Orthodontists



September 26, 2025

**Steven M. Siegel, DMD**  
*President*

443.690.5355  
[ssiegel@aaortho.org](mailto:ssiegel@aaortho.org)

**Michael C. Durbin, DDS, MS**  
*President-Elect*

847.927.0850  
[mdurbin@aaortho.org](mailto:mdurbin@aaortho.org)  
Board Certified by the ABO

**Richard A. Williams, DDS, MS**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

901.413.9891  
[rwilliams@aaortho.org](mailto:rwilliams@aaortho.org)

**Trey Lawrence, JD, MS**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

314.292.6525  
[tlawrence@aaortho.org](mailto:tlawrence@aaortho.org)

West Virginia Board of Dentistry  
Susan Combs, Executive Director  
PO Box 1447  
Via Email: [wvdentalboard@wvdentalboard.org](mailto:wvdentalboard@wvdentalboard.org)

**Re: Public Comment on Proposed Rules 5CSR9.2025 –§5-9-15  
Interstate Telehealth Registration**

Dear Ms. Combs and Members of the Board,

We write on behalf of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) and the West Virginia Association of Orthodontists (WVAO). The AAO is the world's oldest and largest dental specialty organization, created in 1900. It represents more than 19,000 orthodontists throughout the United States, Canada, and abroad, including 60 orthodontists in the state of West Virginia. As a professional organization, the AAO is dedicated to, among other goals, improving the health of the public by promoting quality orthodontic care, the importance of overall oral healthcare, and advocating for the public interest.

We submit these comments in support of the proposed rules package 5CSR9.2025, and in particular §5-9-15 concerning Interstate Telehealth Registration. We commend the Board advancing a clear regulatory framework that modernizes dental practice in West Virginia by appropriately integrating telehealth while maintaining patient protections outlined in SB 710, now enacted in §30-4-3 and §30-4-8b, that are foundational to high-quality care.

The West Virginia Legislature, through SB 710, has established that all dentists providing services to patients in the state, whether in person or through teledentistry, must adhere to the same standard of care. This statute was an important step forward in ensuring that patients are not placed at risk by unregulated or insufficiently accountable treatment models. Safe and effective teledentistry can and should expand access

to care, but only when providers are held to the same standards of care as in-person practitioners. The proposed rules reflect this principle and are therefore strongly aligned with both legislative intent and clinical best practices.

The AAO supports the specific provisions of §5-9-15 that require applicants for interstate telehealth registration to demonstrate graduation from an accredited dental school, disclose all licenses held, and submit verification by the Board. These requirements safeguard the public by preventing unlicensed or unregistered individuals from exploiting telehealth pathways while giving patients confidence that they are receiving care from legitimate, credentialed professionals. When combined with the definitions, disciplinary authority, and patient protection provisions found throughout the larger rules package, these requirements ensure both consistency and effectiveness in the oversight of telehealth practice.

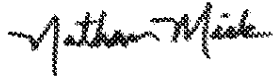
We encourage the Board, in implementing §5-9-15, to make explicit that registrants under this section remain subject to West Virginia's continuing professional obligations, including standards of care, recordkeeping requirements, continuing education, and disciplinary oversight. Doing so will underscore that the regulatory responsibilities of out-of-state providers mirror those imposed upon in-state licensees.

In addition, it would be helpful to provide clarity on renewal procedures for interstate telehealth registrations, ensuring that practitioners remain accountable over time. Finally, we encourage the Board to consider requiring that patients be clearly informed when they are receiving care from a dentist licensed in another state, but registered in West Virginia, through telehealth, including disclosure of the provider's identity and the inherent limitations of remote treatment. Such transparency will promote trust and reinforce patient safety.

In conclusion, the AAO and WVAO applaud the Board's leadership in advancing the proposed rules package 5CSR9.2025, which represents a balanced and forward-looking approach to modernizing dental practice in West Virginia. Section §5-9-15 is a particularly important element, as it expands access to quality care in underserved communities while ensuring that all providers, regardless of location, are held to the same high standards. By adopting these regulations, the Board will reinforce the intent of SB 710, protect patients from unsafe practices, and foster the safe and effective use of telehealth technologies.

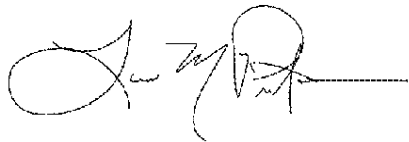
We thank the Board for the opportunity to comment and for its continued commitment to protecting the health and safety of West Virginians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Mick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "N".

*Nathan Mick*

*Vice President of Advocacy, U.S. and Canada  
American Association of Orthodontists*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance Pittman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "L".

*Lance Pittman, DDS, MS*

*President*

*West Virginia Association of Orthodontists*