

1 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
2 HARRISBURG

3 - - -
4 Thursday, September 23, 2010
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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7 HOUSE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE COMMITTEE
Public Hearing on Licensure of Foreign-Trained Dentists
8 HB-2684/PN-4177 (Rep. Tony Payton, Jr.)
9

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11 COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

12 REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL P. MCGEEHAN, Majority Chairman
13 REPRESENTATIVE JULIE HARHART, Minority Chairwoman
14 REPRESENTATIVE TONY PAYTON
15 REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY SOLOBAY
16 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES WANSACZ

17 OTHERS PRESENT:

18 MEREDITH M. BIGGICA, Executive Director for Democrats
19 WAYNE CRAWFORD, Executive Director for Republican Caucus
20

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22 HELD AT: Temple University, 1330 Pollett Walk
1810 Conference Suite, Philadelphia, PA
23 REPORTED BY: Lori Marculini, Court Reporter-Notary Public
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1 TESTIFIERS:

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3 BASIL L. MERENDA, Acting Secretary of State and
4 Commissioner of the Bureau of Professional
5 and Occupational Affairs

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7 AMID I. ISMAIL, BDA, MPH, MBA, DrPh, Dean of the
8 Kornberg School of Dentistry, Temple
9 University

10

11 THOMAS W. BRAUN, DMD, Ph.D., Dean, University of
12 Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine

13

14 DENIS F. KINANE, B.D.S., Ph.D., Dean, University of
15 Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine

16

17 BERNARD DISHLER, DDS, Trustee, Pennsylvania Dental
18 Association

19

20 DINO ANGELICI, DMD, Member of the Board of
21 Directors, Pennsylvania Academy of General
22 Dentistry

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1 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: We are here to
2 gather testimony on House Bill 2684.

3 That is the Licensure of Foreign
4 Trained Dentists.

5 The prime sponsor will be arriving
6 momentarily, but we wanted to begin the
7 meeting.

8 We want to thank Lori Marculini for
9 being here today and for transcribing the
10 proceedings.

11 My name is Mike McGeehan. I am
12 Chairman of the House of the Professional
13 Licensure Committee.

14 I represent a district in
15 Philadelphia.

16 I am also joined by my Republican
17 colleague, Chairwoman Julie Harhart, who is
18 the Republican Chair of this Committee.

19 I will turn it over to Julie for some
20 opening comments.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HARHART: I really don't have
22 any opening comments. I am just glad to be
23 here and looking forward to hearing what
24 your testimony is, and I'm just looking

1 forward to what everybody's testimony is.

2 So, we could get the meeting started.

3 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you, Madam
4 Chair.

5 I will ask the others to identify
6 themselves.

7 I will begin to my right with
8 Representative Solobay.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SOLOBAY: Thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman.

11 Representative Timothy Solobay. 48th
12 District, Washington County.

13 I think I get the longest distance
14 award today.

15 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: We are joined by
16 Representative Payton and guest.

17 REPRESENTATIVE PAYTON: Representative
18 Tony Payton.

19 I represent the Ninth District which is
20 just north of here.

21 MS. BIGGICA: Meredith Biggica,
22 Executive Director on the Democratic side.

23 MR. CRAWFORD: Wayne Crawford. I am the
24 Executive Director for the Republican

1 Caucus.

2 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you, Members,
3 for attending.

4 The Staff did a wonderful job of
5 arranging this facility.

6 We wanted to thank Temple University
7 for the use of this wonderful hall.

8 This is probably the nicest meeting
9 place I have been in in my twenty years in
10 the legislature.

11 Thank you to Temple University for the
12 great job that you do for Philadelphia and
13 for availing this facility to us.

14 I want to begin by introducing our
15 first testifier. He is no stranger, of
16 course, to this Committee or to the entire
17 Commonwealth.

18 That is Basil Merenda. He is the
19 Acting Secretary of State and the
20 Commissioner of the Bureau of Professional
21 and Occupational Affairs.

22 Good afternoon, Mr. Secretary.

23 BASIL MERENDA: Good afternoon, Mr.
24 Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: You may begin.

2 Obviously, these proceedings are part
3 of the official record.

4 If you would just state your name
5 clearly for the stenographer.

6 BASIL MERENDA: Basil Merenda.

7 Chairman McGeehan, Chairwoman Harhart,
8 distinguished Members of the Professional
9 Licensing Committee, good afternoon and
10 thank you for inviting the Department of
11 State to provide testimony on House Bill
12 2684.

13 This legislation would amend the Dental
14 Law to create two types of restricted
15 teaching licenses which would be available
16 without examination to foreign-trained
17 dentists who intend to teach at one of the
18 Commonwealth's three existing dental
19 schools.

20 For the record, my name is Basil
21 Merenda. I am the Acting Secretary of the
22 Commonwealth, and I also serve as the
23 Commissioner of the Department of State's
24 Bureau of Professional and Occupational

1 Affairs better known as BPOA.

2 As Commissioner, I administer the
3 Commonwealth's twenty-nine licensing boards
4 and sit as a voting member on twenty-seven
5 of those twenty-nine boards.

6 Under current Pennsylvania law,
7 foreign-trained faculty members who are
8 recruited to teach at one of the
9 Commonwealth's three dental schools are
10 required to register with the State Dental
11 Board upon arrival.

12 This, in turn, permits the holder to
13 teach in the classroom as well as in the
14 clinical setting without a Pennsylvania
15 dental license.

16 These non-renewable permits are limited
17 to teaching, do not authorize any form of
18 practice and remain in effect for four
19 years.

20 During the four year period, the
21 foreign-trained faculty member is required
22 to complete the necessary course work to
23 raise the educational level of their foreign
24 degrees to the standards of a typical D.M.D.

1 or D.D.S. degree as specified in
2 Pennsylvania's Dental Practice Act.

3 Any foreign-trained faculty member who
4 fails to complete the Commonwealth's
5 licensure requirements within the four year
6 period will no longer be permitted to teach
7 dentistry within the Commonwealth of
8 Pennsylvania, and these otherwise qualified
9 professors must leave the school to the
10 detriment of the student body.

11 Simply put, the current four year path
12 that foreign-trained dentists must pursue in
13 order to achieve full licensure as a dentist
14 in Pennsylvania has proven to be an
15 insufficient length of time to complete the
16 Commonwealth's licensure requirements.

17 Dental school administrators cite the
18 demanding schedules maintained by the
19 foreign-trained faculty members as the chief
20 reason why four years is not enough time.

21 During that four year period, the
22 foreign-trained dental faculty member must
23 balance their teaching schedules along with
24 the course work they must complete to raise

1 the level of their foreign dental degrees.

2 As the deans will explain, this is a
3 grueling schedule.

4 In fact, as you will hear from the
5 deans, the four year permit has made it
6 difficult, if not impossible, to recruit
7 qualified foreign-trained faculty to leave
8 their homeland to come to Pennsylvania and
9 teach in our dental schools.

10 I can report that House Bill 2684
11 effectively addresses these issues and
12 concerns, and I submit that the
13 administration can enthusiastically support
14 this legislature initiative.

15 In short, the legislative scheme
16 outlined in House Bill 2684 creates two
17 restrictive renewable licensure types that
18 provides the Dental Board with direct
19 jurisdiction over the foreign-trained
20 dentist, and at the same time establishes a
21 path to Pennsylvania licensure that would
22 appear to enable these faculty members to
23 pursue their additional educational goals
24 while also meeting their teaching demands

1 as instructors.

2 The nuts and bolts of the legislation
3 are very effective and are based on good
4 public policy.

5 For instance, the Administration
6 commends the Committee for subjecting both
7 classes of restrictive licensees to the
8 same straightforward prerequisites.

9 The applicant for both types of
10 licenses must hold appointments to the
11 faculty of a dental school in the
12 Commonwealth. Not be currently licensed
13 in this Commonwealth. Must be licensed by
14 the proper licensing authority of another
15 state, country or territory and has not
16 failed an examination for licensure as a
17 dentist in this Commonwealth.

18 This would mean that the prerequisites
19 for these licenses can easily be met by the
20 applicant and easily administered by the
21 Bureau of Professional and Occupational
22 Affairs.

23 Regarding the two licensure classes,
24 the Administration would note that

1 distinguishing the two licenses based in
2 specialty training is also good public
3 policy.

4 The first restricted license class
5 would be for foreign-trained dentists who
6 are licensed in another state or country and
7 have successfully completed the American
8 Dental Association's Commission on Dental
9 Accreditation referred to as CODA approved
10 specialty dentistry programs.

11 A restrictive license of this type may
12 be renewed indefinitely on a biennial basis
13 because the licensure holder possesses
14 specialty dentistry training that has met US
15 dental standards; and therefore, we can be
16 assured that the license holder is trained
17 to teach his or her dental specialty in both
18 the classroom and the clinical setting
19 consistent with US standards.

20 In contrast, the second restricted
21 license class is for foreign-trained
22 dentists who lack the specialized US dental
23 training that comes under the CODA-approved
24 specialty program.

1 This second licensure type may be
2 renewed biennially for a maximum of six
3 years.

4 The Administration agrees with this six
5 year limitation because six years is more
6 than enough time for the holder of the
7 license to complete US training in general
8 dentistry or even a dental specialty.

9 Therefore, if training is not completed
10 in six years, a question about the
11 commitment of the license holder to US
12 dental standards must be raised and the
13 privilege to teach in the Commonwealth
14 dental school should be withheld.

15 Also, the Administration would like to
16 note that the two licenses established by
17 House Bill 2684 would rectify a longstanding
18 regulatory shortcoming with the teaching
19 permits which is currently the law.

20 Simply put, the licensure scheme within
21 the legislation would legally bring
22 foreign-trained teachers of dentistry
23 directly within the jurisdiction of the
24 Dental Board.

1 It would authorize the Board to take
2 appropriate disciplinary action against the
3 teacher who may violate the law or the
4 Board's regulations and enable the Board to
5 establish a licensure record of the foreign-
6 trained dental teacher while they work in
7 the Commonwealth.

8 Finally, I would submit that House Bill
9 2684 would go a long way to allow the
10 Commonwealth's three dental schools to more
11 readily recruit some of the best foreign-
12 trained dental professionals in the world.

13 In fact, the legislation would most
14 notably establish a more reasonable and
15 achievable path to full licensure as
16 dentists in Pennsylvania, and therefore,
17 permit the schools to retain these faculty
18 members for the benefit of the school and
19 its student body.

20 In closing, I would like to thank
21 Chairman McGeehan and Chairwoman Harhart for
22 this opportunity to present these comments
23 to the Committee for its consideration.

24 I would also like to compliment the

1 Committee's staff on House Bill 2684.

2 The staff has done its usual
3 outstanding job in identifying issues,
4 bringing stakeholders together and doing the
5 nitty-gritty drafting of the legislation.

6 Again, thank you for your invitation
7 here today.

8 I welcome any questions at this time.

9 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you very much,
10 Commissioner.

11 Is there questions from the Board?

12 REPRESENTATIVE PAYTON: Yes. Just to
13 say that your remarks are spot-on and well-
14 taken.

15 I think this will make it easier for
16 foreign dentists to practice in the
17 Commonwealth.

18 Thank you for your comments. Very much
19 appreciate it.

20 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Are there any other
21 questions?

22 Commissioner, thank you very much.

23 Also, we appreciate the input of the
24 Administration.

1 Certainly it's always welcome, and we
2 are very happy to have you here today.

3 Thank you for your testimony.

4 BASIL MERENDA: My pleasure. Thank
5 you.

6 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Next on the agenda,
7 we have a distinguished panel of deans of
8 the PA dental schools, and they consist of
9 Doctor Amid Ismail. He is the Dean of the
10 Kornberg School of Dentistry at Temple
11 University.

12 Thomas Braun. He is the Dean of the
13 University of Pittsburgh School of Dental
14 Medicine.

15 And Dennis Kinane. He is the Dean of
16 the University of Pennsylvania School of
17 Dental Medicine.

18 I believe you are going to be
19 testifying as a panel?

20 DOCTOR ISMAIL: As a panel or one
21 individual.

22 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: We would certainly
23 like to hear from each of you individually.

24 If you will take your seats as a panel.

1 Just individually introduce yourselves, and
2 then, Doctor Ismail, if you begin for this
3 panel.

4 DOCTOR ISMAIL: I am Amid Ismail, the
5 Dean of the Kornberg School of Dentistry,
6 Temple University.

7 DOCTOR BRAUN: Thomas Braun, Dean of the
8 School of Dental Medicine at the University
9 of Pittsburgh.

10 DOCTOR KINANE: Denis Kinane, the Dean
11 at the University of Pennsylvania School of
12 Dental Medicine.

13 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you,
14 gentlemen.

15 You may had begin, Doctor Ismail.

16 DOCTOR ISMAIL: Thank you.

17 Chairman McGeehan and Chairwoman
18 Harhart, Distinguished Members of the
19 Professional Licensure Committee, thank you
20 for coming to Temple and welcome to Temple.

21 Every other Wednesday we meet here. We
22 have a Dean from Rowan and a Dean from
23 Japan.

24 So, this is an international

1 university, and we are here on international
2 issues today and the discussion of the
3 Licensure Act.

4 I want to thank you for your effort to
5 improve the ability of the three dental
6 schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 to recruit qualified faculty candidates to
8 maintain our strong system of dental
9 education in the state.

10 Temple is the second oldest school in
11 the country. We also have two out of five
12 dentists in the state are graduates from
13 Temple University.

14 So, we have a long history of education
15 in the state.

16 However, we need to do more to increase
17 access to care, the three of us. The three
18 dental schools are collaborating together.

19 The problem that we face is our
20 expansion of our current operations or even
21 current operations will be dependent on the
22 highly qualified faculty to educate dentists
23 for Pennsylvania.

24 We have different needs for faculty.

1 The majority of our faculty members are
2 excellent general practioners while others
3 are specialists.

4 Temple University does not have a major
5 problem recruiting general practioners to
6 teach at its clinics because we are located
7 in an urban area.

8 We do, however, have a major problem
9 recruiting specialists and our graduate
10 programs will be in jeopardy within the next
11 several years.

12 It is for this reason that the three
13 dental deans of Temple University, the
14 University of Pittsburgh and the University
15 of Pennsylvania are unanimous in supporting
16 the amendments proposed of Act 160, House
17 Bill 2684 to provide us with competitive
18 advantage to recruit qualified candidates to
19 engage in education, research and service
20 within our dental institutions.

21 Other states allow dental schools
22 flexibility to recruit qualified
23 international candidates for faculty
24 positions.

1 In this Commonwealth, we require that
2 new faculty enroll in the D.M.D. Program and
3 finish within four years while they teach
4 and conduct research or provide other
5 professional services.

6 For specialists, especially
7 international faculty with expertise in
8 their field, a job offer from one of our
9 dental schools is not competitive with
10 similar offers such as New Jersey or New
11 York.

12 Hence, I fully support the amendments
13 of Act 160 to allow us to recruit qualified
14 faculty to educate the next generations of
15 dentists and specialists.

16 These future faculty members can come
17 either with training from a US or Canadian
18 dental school, what's referred to as CODA,
19 Commission on Dental Accreditation, schools
20 or what is referred to as an accredited
21 school or from other schools.

22 I strongly support the unlimited
23 renewal of teaching licenses to these
24 candidates with one change.

1 Faculty members need to see new
2 patients and dental needs. Teaching without
3 practice is of limited long-term value in
4 professional development.

5 Hence, I propose amending the statement
6 on page fifteen lines twenty-five to thirty
7 be amended to read, It is unlawful for any
8 holder of restrictive teaching license to
9 practice dentistry except for the purpose of
10 teaching and adding patient care because
11 teaching by itself without doing patient
12 care for a long period of time is not
13 enough.

14 But to teach patient care should be
15 provided within the confines of the
16 certified dental school, and it's limited in
17 scope. So, it's not every day. We usually
18 have maybe one day for practice.

19 It's unlawful for any holder of a
20 restricted teaching license to practice
21 dentistry privately or receive a fee for
22 service rendered.

23 So, the same provision except adding
24 the intramural practice.

1 Additionally, I propose the Committee
2 considers the request from the three deans
3 to allow non-CODA trained specialists with
4 international expertise a third category of
5 license defined as follows:

6 "Foreign-trained specialists who have
7 completed a dental specialty program not
8 within the jurisdiction of the American
9 Dental Association's Commission on Dental
10 Accreditation and who have been verified as
11 having the equivalent education in their
12 specialty area based on the endorsement of
13 three directors from CODA approved programs
14 selected by the State Board of Dentistry."

15 We have international experts who are
16 not CODA trained, who were not trained in a
17 CODA school who we could benefit from at
18 our schools.

19 We cannot ask them to go back to dental
20 school for four years or six years to get a
21 degree.

22 These professional faculty members, if
23 certified using the proposed system, will be
24 eligible for unlimited renewal of their

1 teaching licenses.

2 The rationale for this proposal is
3 based on the same principals of
4 competitiveness to recruit specialists to
5 meet our educational needs while saving time
6 and costs of placing these potential faculty
7 members in one or two years of
8 recertification.

9 I can assure the Committee that our
10 screening and hiring process will ensure
11 that these faculty members contribute at
12 high levels to the educational process of
13 specialists in the state.

14 I also propose several editorial
15 changes for your consideration but in the
16 interest of time, I am including them for
17 your review in my written comments.

18 Thank you for your support and for
19 moving this process forward.

20 MR. MCGEEHAN: Thank you, Doctor Ismail.

21 Doctor Braun.

22 DOCTOR BRAUN: Good afternoon. I am
23 Thomas Braun, Dean of the School of Dental
24 Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

1 Briefly my background is that I am a
2 practicing Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon,
3 and I served as Dean for the last ten
4 years.

5 I am very home-grown. I was educated
6 in both my pre-doctoral and my dental
7 education in Pennsylvania.

8 I did my residency as well as my
9 Masters and PhD here.

10 I have been continuously licensed since
11 1973, and I served on the State Board of
12 Dentistry with Commissioner Merenda here
13 since 2000.

14 I have been both in private practice
15 and in education, and I served on the
16 Commission of Accreditation as a
17 Commissioner for four years.

18 I would like to extend, first of all,
19 my sincere thanks to Representative Payton
20 for his willingness to act on what has been
21 a longstanding and increasing serious
22 problem for the Commonwealth and for Mr.
23 McGeehan and for Miss Harhart for chairing
24 this meeting.

1 The problem that we have deals with a
2 severe faculty shortage in dental education
3 in Pennsylvania.

4 I would like to support the need for
5 change in the existing law in order to
6 assure an on-going pool of qualified faculty
7 to provide education in each of our three
8 Pennsylvania dental schools located in
9 research-intensive universities.

10 Dental education is different from any
11 other types of education in that it is very
12 time intensive for the individual teacher.

13 My counterparts, for example, in
14 medicine consider a heavy teaching load one
15 in which they may lecture six hours a
16 semester.

17 On the other hand, it's rather common
18 for a dental faculty member to be actively
19 teaching for at least thirty-two hours a
20 week.

21 Therefore, it requires individuals who
22 are absolutely committed to teaching.

23 The dilemma occurs when one considers
24 the opportunity for a dentist to be actively

1 involved in teaching and the salary
2 disparity that exists with private
3 practice.

4 It is an essentially insurmountable
5 difference of perhaps four or five times,
6 and it is a problem we face nationwide.

7 So, it is quite difficult to persuade a
8 dentist trained here who on average, for
9 example, from our school graduates about two
10 hundred and fifty thousand dollars in debt
11 to join a full-time teaching faculty.

12 For that reason, individuals who have
13 been educated or trained in foreign
14 institutions who are often committed to
15 teaching and/or interested in remaining at
16 the dental school are a potentially valuable
17 asset to the Commonwealth.

18 Under the existing law, however, they
19 choose to move to one of forty or more other
20 states which are not so restrictive.

21 This problem will increase as an
22 estimated twenty new dental schools will
23 open in the next several years exacerbating
24 the already existing nationwide dental

1 faculty shortage of about four hundred.

2 I again state my appreciation for the
3 Bill as it's presented, but I would request
4 consideration of two items which are
5 consistent with what Dean Ismail just
6 reported.

7 First, reference lines one through four
8 on page five which reads, "A restricted
9 license granted pursuant to paragraph one
10 Subchapter Two shall be renewed biennially
11 for a maximum of six years of licensure.
12 Conditions of renewal shall be set by the
13 Board by regulation."

14 I urge consideration that individuals
15 trained in a foreign country but not in a
16 Commission on Dental Accreditation, CODA,
17 approved program be considered for licensing
18 within the confines of the dental school for
19 an unlimited number of two year renewals.

20 As an example, I would note colleagues
21 who are trained in the United Kingdom,
22 Germany, Austria, France and many other
23 countries who have training equal to ours in
24 the United States and who would make

1 teaching in a school of dental medicine
2 should be permitted to practice in the
3 faculty or intramural practice of the school
4 as it is sometimes known.

5 It is essential for the maintenance and
6 the enhancement of clinical skills and
7 knowledge and to assist in salary
8 supplementation which as I had noted
9 previously lacks dramatically in comparison
10 to practice on the outside.

11 I believe that if these two items were
12 able to be amended as noted, it would
13 benefit dental education in the
14 Commonwealth, and as a result, the people of
15 the Commonwealth.

16 Finally, I would like to thank again
17 Commissioner and Secretary Basil Merenda for
18 his continued pursuit to improve education
19 and delivery of care to the people in
20 Pennsylvania and who has been very helpful
21 in we three deans in putting this forward.

22 I sincerely appreciate the opportunity
23 to present these comments.

24 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you very much,

1 Doctor Braun.

2 If you would remain after your
3 testimony to answer any questions that may
4 come up.

5 Doctor Kinane, thank you for being
6 here.

7 DOCTOR KINANE: Thank you.

8 Good afternoon, Chairperson McGeehan
9 and Chairperson Harhart and Representative
10 Payton and the other Members of the
11 Committee.

12 My name is Denis Kinane. I am the Dean
13 of the University of Pennsylvania School of
14 Dental Medicine.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to
16 testify on this important legislative
17 proposal which would modify existing
18 restrictions on foreign-trained dentists at
19 Pennsylvania dental schools.

20 I would like to begin by addressing the
21 question why do we need this change and, of
22 course, a lot of what has been said already
23 addresses this, and really much of what I am
24 going to say is actually going to somewhat

1 reinforce and indicated that I am totally in
2 agreement with my two dean colleagues and
3 also Representative Merenda who spoke
4 earlier.

5 So, let me provide you with some
6 statements and then some examples that I
7 have encountered my first year a bit in
8 Pennsylvania.

9 If we as deans aim to provide high
10 quality care for the people in Pennsylvania,
11 we need well-trained ethical dentists. To
12 produce these, we need the very best
13 teachers.

14 Foreign-trained dentists are a large
15 proportion of the dental school clinical
16 teachers because US trained dentists are not
17 prepared to take the salary cut, that we
18 heard from Thomas Braun earlier, which would
19 be necessary to teach and are less motivated
20 for whatever reasons to engage in clinical
21 research.

22 These foreign-trained dentists need to
23 practice to maintain their clinical teaching
24 skills and to keep abreast of the latest

1 advances they need to be hands-on dentists,
2 not theorists.

3 Currently we are one of the few states
4 in the US that does not permit
5 foreign-trained dentists with equivalent
6 dental degrees to practice dentistry
7 intramurally within the University campus.

8 Our current agreement asks that they
9 achieve a US Dental license in four years or
10 they must stop practicing.

11 Because of this, three things happen.

12 One, they achieve the license and
13 continue to teach.

14 Two, they did get the license to leave
15 and go into practice outside the dental
16 school, and we have had two individuals at
17 Penn who have done that.

18 And three, they may leave Pennsylvania
19 and go onto one of the majority states in
20 the union that allows them to practice, and
21 we lost two individuals this year to Texas.

22 We then become a training state for the
23 other states, and the foreign dentists come
24 in and train and go elsewhere.

1 They come here and get trained and they
2 compete with other dentists or they actually
3 go to other states.

4 This is all as a result of the current
5 legislation.

6 This is a considerable drain on us.

7 In addition to the examples above, I
8 wish to present two more interesting cases.

9 The first is a Chair of Prosthodontics
10 who is reaching the end of his four years
11 and may leave for another state shortly. He
12 practiced for six years in Louisiana and is
13 a world renowned Prosthodontist who
14 regularly speaks at state-of-the-art
15 meetings and master clinician CDE sessions.

16 The second example is a Periodontist
17 who practiced for more than seven years in
18 Kentucky and who is doubly boarded in the UK
19 and produces clinical position papers for
20 prestigious organizations such as the AAP
21 and the EFP.

22 These are the organizations that
23 actually lead Periodontics in both the US
24 and Europe.

1 This individual cannot take the time to
2 pass first and second part boards and the
3 NERB examination due to his hectic
4 day-to-day leadership role.

5 You can appreciate that an individual
6 such as this would be vastly wasted if we
7 were to encourage them to actually spend
8 much of their time working with us to
9 actually gain qualifications to allow them
10 to continue.

11 So, we have a problem there.

12 The current proposal is a vast
13 improvement on current law but to my mind is
14 deficient in two ways.

15 The proposed bill, one, ignores the
16 equivalence of specialist qualifications
17 from elsewhere and therefore wastes
18 resources and recruitment opportunities.

19 And two, it prevents dental clinical
20 teachers from practicing intramurally and
21 earning from this practice.

22 If we have clinical faculty who can
23 teach but not practice one day a week in
24 intramural practice, this will create

1 inequity across faculty in pay and skills.

2 We typically have faculty who earn
3 base salaries of approximately one-third of
4 what can be earned in practice.

5 We had a lot less in Pennsylvania, the
6 School of the University of Pennsylvania
7 than Pittsburgh. So, that's the discrepancy
8 there.

9 And we earn a lot less than can be in
10 earned in practice and additional income
11 from intramural practice. We will lose them
12 to other states.

13 This, as you know, has already happened
14 in Pennsylvania.

15 In addition, without practicing on
16 their own patients, their skills will
17 diminish over time.

18 Again, that's not what we want. We
19 don't want our dentists being trained by
20 individuals who do not have the dexterity
21 and do not have the skills.

22 So, one legitimate concern the Board
23 should have is the need to guarantee the
24 quality of the teachers' training and

1 clinical skills.

2 I can assure you that we have no place
3 for substandard clinicians and will assess
4 them initially and monitor them at all times
5 with peer assessments while they are within
6 our clinics.

7 So, in closing, I would like to thank
8 Basil Merenda, Chairman McGeehan and
9 Chairwoman Harhart and Representative Payton
10 for his introduction of legislation in
11 addressing this important issue, and I would
12 encourage the Committee to consider my
13 suggested changes consistent with the other
14 Deans as a way to strengthen this Bill.

15 Thank you again for the opportunity to
16 testify.

17 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you very much,
18 Doctor Kinane.

19 Thank you to the Deans for, first of
20 all, taking the time out of your busy
21 schedules to be here.

22 This Committee is impressed that three
23 distinguished deans chose to show up to
24 testify.

1 So, we are grateful for your
2 attendance.

3 I want to begin the questioning, if I
4 may, not to take away or belabor your
5 testimony, it was informative, but help
6 me understand.

7 Where are, if it is particular to your
8 schools, where are most of these foreign
9 dentists coming from? What countries?

10 Is there a specific geographic area in
11 the world that they are coming from?

12 DOCTOR KINANE: From our school, it is
13 mostly Europe. The UK. Germany.

14 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: And they are
15 non-CODA countries.

16 Is that correct?

17 DOCTOR KINANE: Yes.

18 DOCTOR ISMAIL: Well, from my school,
19 we have Europe and South America, but CODA
20 is an organization that is based in
21 Chicago.

22 It is an independent body for the
23 accredited dental schools in the US and
24 Canada.

1 There is no other school, not because
2 they are disapproved. They are not CODA
3 standards.

4 No one has rechecked the standard
5 because CODA has not so far gone into
6 accredited, although they have started.

7 No school has been accredited outside
8 because it is a different system.

9 So, when we refer to schools in Europe
10 and South America, non-CODA accredited does
11 not mean that CODA has disapproved them.

12 It's that no one has went and checked
13 because the system is not there and
14 working.

15 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: It seems to me that
16 this is an economy problem, not a shortage
17 of American-born specialists, and I think
18 all three of you testified to that fact.

19 That American-trained dentists receive
20 four to five times the salary that somebody
21 would if they stayed within a faculty
22 setting.

23 So, it's following the money like a
24 business or like anything else.

1 We have a debate in this country about
2 outsourcing and off-shoring and immigration,
3 and this seems to me a microcosm of that
4 battle.

5 How do we help educate the people that
6 we represent about bringing foreign-born
7 specialists in here to teach?

8 And going further than that, allowing
9 them also to work in a private practice
10 outside of an academic setting?

11 DOCTOR BRAUN: I'll start.

12 As Thomas Friedman points out, the
13 world is flat, and there really are a lot of
14 individuals who are trained who are
15 perfectly capable but who have an interest
16 in remaining in academics.

17 There is an economic driver here in our
18 country because dentistry is very lucrative
19 for private practitioners.

20 There are, on the other hand, people I
21 guess who are silly like me who leave
22 private practice to go into academics full
23 time because there are other reasons, the
24 research and education and learning and

1 teaching.

2 To exclude our colleagues from other
3 parts of the world and increasingly Eastern
4 Europe, the Indian subcontinents, those
5 areas where a wealth of knowledge and
6 information and research participation
7 occurs, would do nothing but I think create
8 a very involuted and ungrowing practice.

9 DOCTOR ISMAIL: If I may, what you're
10 talking about here is not to allow them to
11 go into private practice.

12 It's about allowing them to teach and
13 do research and service at the schools.

14 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Well, I think I
15 heard some testimony about recommending that
16 just to solve some of the economic
17 disparities.

18 DOCTOR ISMAIL: Well, we were talking
19 about intramural practice and that they
20 teach and do patient care in the school
21 because we would like faculty to be hands-on
22 rather than just as Doctor Kinane mentioned
23 technicians or theorists.

24 We need practical surgical experience

1 to provide care.

2 It's not just a show of economics.

3 It's a show of competitiveness.

4 We are competing here with other
5 states.

6 There are two states in the Union who
7 have some restrictive licenses, and we are
8 one of them.

9 When dentists and faculty cannot move
10 from other dental schools to Pennsylvania,
11 we have a problem.

12 We cannot recruit.

13 So, my fear is that in the graduate
14 program area where we need the specialists,
15 and that's why we have the second special
16 type of area, specialists training in the
17 United States, and hopefully we have the
18 third category, that if we do not have the
19 specialists, we will lose these programs to
20 the state.

21 We have to close them.

22 We have to meet CODA standards to have
23 faculty, and if we do not have the right
24 trained faculty, we will lose them.

1 So, competitiveness is really a driving
2 force.

3 The issue of debt in addition to the
4 two hundred and fifty thousand that Doctor
5 Braun mentioned, when they finish their
6 specialty training, they may be into four
7 hundred thousand dollars.

8 That's a big mortgage that they have to
9 pay, and they have to live and have a family
10 and buy a house.

11 So, young graduate specialists are not
12 coming to teach in the school, and maybe we
13 have to wait for a long period of time for
14 them.

15 So that's really the issue. It's
16 economics and competitiveness.

17 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Doctor Kinane had
18 provided some examples of those specialists
19 leaving and going other places.

20 I believe you said to Texas and some
21 other states.

22 Certainly Representative Payton is a
23 lot younger than me and is quicker witted.

24 So, help me understand the problem

1 today, and I know that I'm sure that your
2 schools have done research out ten years or
3 twenty years.

4 If we don't make these changes, if we
5 don't adopt Representative Payton's
6 excellent legislation, we are in a crisis
7 now.

8 Where are we going to be in ten years?

9 Are there enough American-born,
10 American-trained specialists to stay in
11 academia?

12 Where are your schools going to be
13 because they are economic engines for your
14 particular parts of Pennsylvania?

15 DOCTOR KINANE: Yes. I wouldn't want to
16 give a Doomsday scenario, but essentially,
17 if we don't get the very best teachers into
18 the dental schools, the quality of our
19 students coming out will suffer.

20 Not only that, but we all do a sizeable
21 proportion of uncompensated care. We do it
22 for West Philadelphia, North Philadelphia,
23 and I'm sure Pittsburgh is set-up
24 tremendously well by their dental school.

1 We do a lot of uncompensated care for
2 the poorer people in our regions. That
3 suffers also.

4 But I think that the most important
5 thing is the quality of the dentistry.

6 If that suffers, then, we have all
7 sorts of problems later on because a poor or
8 a non, you know, well-practicing dentist is
9 a problem for the community.

10 And similarly, in terms of ethical
11 standards and other standards, we need to
12 have those people trained to the very
13 highest level, and sadly that's the type of
14 thing that actually suffers.

15 We were able to do what we were able to
16 do right now because we have an influx of
17 foreign individuals who come in and are
18 highly qualified and who will teach for us.

19 And in addition to that, we are blessed
20 by having a tremendous amount of practioners
21 from in our case Philadelphia coming in.

22 But as Amid says, these are individuals
23 who paid off their mortgages.

24 They are twenty years post-

1 qualification typically, and they come back
2 in to teach.

3 So, that combination of the younger
4 academics coming through typically from
5 foreign countries plus the mainstay of our
6 clinical teachers which often is US citizens
7 or whatever, helps us enormously, but I
8 think that a lot of what Doctor Ismail is
9 saying and is actually very concerning for
10 me is that we are not competitive with other
11 states.

12 It will be that the other states will
13 do an awful lot better.

14 They will see us as a training ground,
15 and they will pick-up our individuals. That
16 has happened already, and this will continue
17 to happen.

18 I think that we can do something. I
19 think that there is a certain understanding
20 of the problem, and we are really grateful
21 as deans to come here and actually express
22 this to you, but I think that also it's very
23 hard, but this is a real issue that we all
24 have to get behind ourselves.

1 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you.

2 Chairwoman Harhart?

3 CHAIRWOMAN HARHART: Nothing.

4 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Representative

5 Payton?

6 REPRESENTATIVE PAYTON: Nothing. Thank

7 you.

8 - - -

9 (Whereupon, Representative James

10 Wansacz entered the hearing room at this

11 time.)

12 - - -

13 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Representative

14 Solobay.

15 REPRESENTATIVE SOLOBAY: No.

16 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Well, Doctor Ismail,

17 Doctor Braun, Doctor Coneen, thank you very

18 much.

19 I can't tell you how impressed we are

20 with three distinguished deans at your

21 particular schools that joined us today and

22 spoke so forcibly in support of

23 Representative Payton's bill.

24 It's not lost on this Committee. It

1 will certainly be translated back to the
2 full House.

3 Thank you very much for being here
4 today.

5 Our next testifier is Bernard Dishler
6 who is a Trustee of the Pennsylvania Dental
7 Association.

8 BERNARD DISHLER: Good afternoon,
9 Chairman McGeehan and Chairwoman Harhart.

10 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Before you begin
11 your testimony, I just want to welcome
12 Representative Wansacz who has joined us.

13 BERNARD DISHLER: And good afternoon to
14 the House Professional Licensing Committee.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to
16 testify before you today regarding House
17 Bill 2684, legislation aimed at recruiting
18 and retaining more qualified faculty to
19 teach at Pennsylvania's three dental
20 schools.

21 I am a General Dentist practicing in
22 Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, and as you heard,
23 I am a Trustee of the Pennsylvania Dental
24 Association, the DPDA, and I am here

1 representing more than fifty-five hundred
2 licensed dentists.

3 Amending Act 160 is necessary to
4 improve the dental education system and
5 dental work force capacity in Pennsylvania.

6 At present, dental school
7 administrators are prevented from recruiting
8 desperately needed qualified individuals to
9 serve in faculty positions.

10 A shortage of faculty may result in
11 schools not accepting as many students into
12 their dental schools.

13 With a rapidly aging population and
14 more dentists soon to retire than will be
15 graduating from dental schools, Pennsylvania
16 can ill-afford to turn away qualified
17 applicants to faculty positions.

18 The PDA supports HB 2684 as currently
19 written with the proposed amendments that
20 prohibit teachers of dentistry
21 from practicing dentistry privately or
22 receive a fee for his or her service and
23 limits their ability to practice in the
24 dental school to which they are registered

1 only.

2 PDA also agrees that a distinction
3 should be made between foreign-trained
4 dentists who graduated from programs
5 accredited by the American Dental
6 Association's CODA and those who have not by
7 requiring that those dentists falling in the
8 latter category obtain a regular license
9 within six years of obtaining a restricted
10 license to teach dentistry.

11 This will ensure that all dental
12 faculty have met the practice standards as
13 defined by dentistry in the United States.

14 Under CODA, dentists must be Board
15 Certified to practice their chosen
16 specialty.

17 This same standard should apply to
18 those dentists who have not yet graduated
19 from a CODA-approved program but will have
20 six years to do if this law is enacted.

21 Just as the deans of our dental schools
22 are dedicated to solving issues impacting
23 the future of the profession, the PDA is
24 also committed to identifying and solving

1 problems that ultimately impact the
2 profession and our patients.

3 PDA believes that amending Act 160 to
4 allow the dental schools to more easily
5 recruit and retain dental faculty is one way
6 in which to improve access to care.

7 Along with adequate funding sources to
8 maintain the teaching facilities, having an
9 adequate number of dental faculty may result
10 in the education of more dental students.

11 Our hope is that along with other
12 initiatives that the PDA hopes to enact to
13 make Pennsylvania a more attractive state in
14 which to practice, passing HB 2684 will
15 ultimately improve our patient's ability to
16 access care in a timely manner.

17 I would be happy to meet with you all
18 personally to elaborate on PDA's other
19 initiatives aimed at attracting more
20 dentists to Pennsylvania and improving
21 access to care.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to come
23 before you today to speak about the merits
24 of HB 2684, and I would be happy to answer

1 Have you seen that change in the years
2 that you have been practicing?

3 What I am trying to get at is are these
4 students who are not American citizens who
5 are coming here bringing innovation with
6 them?

7 Where is the innovation now? Is it
8 still here?

9 DOCTOR DISHLER: Well, one of the Deans
10 said the world is flat, and I think that
11 innovation comes from all over.

12 The fact that a lot of these foreign,
13 all the faculty are doing research today,
14 and that's where the innovation is coming
15 from, is from the research, and we are
16 bringing in foreign-trained dentists, and
17 they are doing a lot of the research.

18 So, I don't know. There is certainly
19 innovation coming from other countries as
20 well.

21 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you.

22 Chairwoman Harhart.

23 CHAIRWOMAN HARHART: No. I'm fine.

24 Thank you.

1 General Dentistry regarding House Bill 2684.

2 The Pennsylvania, the Academy of
3 General Dentistry is the largest
4 organization solely representing the general
5 dentists in Pennsylvania with more than
6 fifteen hundred members state worldwide.

7 The core purpose of the PAGD is to
8 advance the value and excellence of general
9 dentistry through a commitment to education
10 of general dentists and their patients.

11 As a member of the Academy of General
12 Dentistry, a dentist commits to
13 participating in more continuing education
14 and training than is even required by the
15 State Board of Dentistry.

16 This makes our Members some of the
17 most highly trained general dentists in the
18 Commonwealth.

19 Dentistry in Pennsylvania is on the
20 verge of a crisis. Dentists are getting out
21 of dentistry at alarming rates.

22 In a survey performed by the Department
23 of Pennsylvania Department of Health in
24 2009 when dental licenses were last up for

1 renewal, the number of dentists eligible to
2 renew their licenses was higher than in any
3 previous year but fewer dentists than ever
4 before chose to renew their Pennsylvania
5 licenses.

6 Dentists are not getting any younger
7 either.

8 According to the Department of Health,
9 forty-seven percent are within the age fifty
10 to sixty-four bracket, slightly above the
11 national average of fifty years of age.

12 Just nine percent of dentists licensed
13 in Pennsylvania are under the age of thirty-
14 five.

15 A first step to finding a solution is
16 to encourage more dentists to enroll in
17 dental school and ensure they have the best
18 faculty available to provide them with
19 quality instruction.

20 House Bill 2684 would do just that.
21 Granting a restricted license renewed
22 biennially for a maximum of six years to
23 foreign-trained dentists who teach at dental
24 schools will help address a great need for

1 qualified instructors in Pennsylvania. It
2 gives more students access to quality
3 instructors without impacting the practices
4 of general dentists in the areas around the
5 schools, and it ensures that instructors
6 stay abreast of the latest techniques to
7 advance the quality of patient care.

8 It is essential for these clinical
9 instructors to practice what they teach.

10 We strongly agree that these licenses
11 should be teaching licenses to practice in
12 an intramural setting. They should not
13 apply to a faculty practice or other fee for
14 service setting.

15 In its report, 2009 Pulse of
16 Pennsylvania's Dentist and Dental Hygienist,
17 the Department of Health recommended that
18 Pennsylvania develop the infrastructure to
19 educate and train new dentists.

20 We agree with this statement and feel
21 that House Bill 2684 is a step in the right
22 direction to meet that need.

23 I thank you for your time today. We
24 appreciate the opportunity to have the voice

1 of the general dentist heard before this
2 Committee on this important matter.

3 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you very much,
4 Doctor.

5 Explain to me again, I know the Deans
6 have talked in their testimony about
7 intramural practice.

8 Explain that to me again.

9 Is that within the confines of the
10 University?

11 DOCTOR ANGELICI: Within the confines of
12 the Dental School treating patients that
13 have come for care, and those patients are
14 charged fees which are collected by the
15 school, and some of those fees are used to
16 pay the doctors to supplement their teaching
17 salaries.

18 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Are you aware that
19 your association, I'm sure, part of the
20 Academy, I'm sure has researched whether
21 other states allow these licensees to
22 practice in a private setting or is it all
23 intramural?

24 DOCTOR ANGELICI: I am not really sure

1 what other states do in that regard.

2 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: You would be opposed
3 to expanding the license to include a
4 setting outside of academia?

5 DOCTOR ANGELICI: Yes.

6 Our organization would be in support of
7 the intramural practice as part of that
8 license but not outside of those confines.

9 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you. Any
10 questions?

11 Representative Payton?

12 REPRESENTATIVE PAYTON: Thank you for
13 your testimony. You painted a pretty dim
14 picture, and that's one of the reasons why
15 this Bill is necessary.

16 What other supports from your
17 prospective do you think we could put in
18 place to improve the general climate of
19 practicing Dentistry in the Commonwealth?

20 DOCTOR ANGELICI: Our organization does
21 have a document called the White Paper which
22 addresses issues dealing with access to care
23 problems nationwide as well as in
24 Pennsylvania.

1 I would be happy to provide you with
2 that paper, and there are all sorts of
3 measures that could be taken to improve the
4 access of the average citizen to a general
5 dentist and proper dental care.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PAYTON: That would be
7 great if that could be sent to the Chairman.
8 I'm sure he will distribute that.

9 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you. Thank
10 you, Representative Payton, and thank you,
11 Doctor, for appearing here and for putting
12 forth the opinions of the Academy.

13 We appreciate you taking time for being
14 here today.

15 DOCTOR ANGELICI: My pleasure. Thank
16 you for having us.

17 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: I think that is the
18 end of our testifiers.

19 I want to thank all those who testified
20 today and educated this Committee.

21 Certainly none of us are dentists on
22 this Committee, but we take the
23 responsibility of making sure that your
24 profession, your worthy and valued

1 profession in this Commonwealth is
2 protected, is expanded.

3 You are given the tools for your
4 universities and for your practices to do
5 the best job that you can, and we are going
6 to take this testimony back and share it
7 with the full Committee and with the full
8 House.

9 I want to commend Representative
10 Payton. He has been, although I think he is
11 the youngest Member of this Committee, he
12 has been a catalyst for a lot of the new
13 ideas that this Committee has taken up, and
14 I want to thank Representative Payton for
15 his valuable contribution to this
16 Committee.

17 I was not aware of the scope of the
18 problem that universities and the profession
19 are facing, not just this year but in the
20 coming years, and I think it's incumbent
21 upon this Committee to act to expand the
22 scope of your dental schools to encompass
23 every idea no matter where it comes from.

24 I think dentistry has been enhanced

1 after hearing the testimony, particularly
2 from the Deans who I am so impressed who
3 took the time to be here today.

4 Their prospective I think has a great
5 weight on my opinion, and I'm convinced that
6 this legislation is needed, and there can't
7 be a delay in the implementation of it.

8 So, I'm certainly looking forward to
9 working with the prime sponsor,
10 Representative Payton, and to work with the
11 schools and the professionals in dentistry
12 to see that this becomes law in
13 Pennsylvania.

14 So, I want to thank those who testified
15 today and provided some really insightful
16 testimony that we can share with our
17 Committee.

18 I also ask Representative Harhart to
19 give any closing remarks you may have.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HARHART: Thank you, Chairman
21 McGeehan.

22 No. I found this testimony to be very
23 interesting and educated myself as well
24 learning more about your scope of practice

1 University as we craft this Bill as it goes
2 through the Committee process and the full
3 House.

4 Having said that, I'll adjourn this
5 official hearing of the House Professional
6 Licensure Committee.

7 Meeting is adjourned.

8 - - -

9 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded
10 at 3:07 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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I hereby certify that the proceedings and
evidence noted are contained fully and
accurately in the notes taken by me of the
foregoing matter, and that this is a correct
transcript of the same.

LORI MARCULINI

(The foregoing certification of this
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