

NEVADA STATE BOARD  
of  
DENTAL EXAMINERS



BOARD TELECONFERENCE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021

6:00 P.M.

**PUBLIC COMMENT BOOK**

**Public Comment:**

**Hunter Hinton**

***DMD Candidate, Class of 2021  
Midwestern University, Arizona***

To the Chair and the Members of the Nevada State Dental Board,

My name is Hunter Hinton and I am currently a fourth year dental student at Midwestern University- Arizona, College of Dental Medicine. I am honored that I will be moving to the great state of Nevada to continue my dental education by attending UNLV for orthodontic residency. While I am in residency, I plan on working at least one day a week as a general dentist. Furthermore, community service is very important to me, and I plan on volunteering and providing care for the underserved.

I am writing to you today to bring attention to a major issue that myself and many of my colleagues are facing, which is navigating boards during the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, 41 out of the 50 states allow CompeDont (manikin) teeth for the Class II and Class III restorative procedures to grant full licensure. Many states are also following suit by allowing prospective dentists to also use the CompeDont for hygiene as well. Unfortunately, Nevada is not one of these states allowing licensure to be obtained via manikin.

Currently the board is only allowing for temporary licensure only but clearly states: "All temporary unrestricted licenses shall expire ninety (90) days after the Governor rescinds the declared state of emergency for COVID-19, at which time a patient-based clinical examination must be successfully completed in order for a temporary unrestricted license to be converted to a full license."

This is concerning for many reasons,

1. This clause is very ambiguous because there is no set date for when the governor will rescind their state of emergency, it could be in 6 months, a year, 18 months, etc. No one knows.
2. ADEX exams do not take place all the time, nor do they take place frequently. Furthermore, the exams are conducted at certain locations throughout the year and it is impossible to say that examiners will be at a testing site near us (if they are even testing at all) when the governor rescinds their state of emergency.
3. This raises the other issue which is trying to find live patients. Trying to find patients that have the exact lesions which are needed to fulfill the specific ADEX examination is difficult enough, but trying to do that within 90 days of an unknown date also makes it more challenging.
4. Let's say we do find a patient(s) locally who does fulfill the requirements, that means we are then responsible for travel and hotel accommodations to go to wherever the ADEX examination is being held. Paying for one patient's travel, and room and board would already be expensive, but try doing it for two/even three patients.
  - a. This also assumes that patients are going to be willing to travel with us and sit through the ADEX exam in an unknown state.
1. Then we have to pay over \$1,100 dollars again to ADEX (after we already paid to take the exam initially) to take the live patient exam.
2. Lastly, because the ADEX examinations take place at dental schools, we are also expected to pay the dental school to rent their equipment for the day to allow for us to take the exam.

You can see, by only granting limited licensure as a solution is problematic at best and reconsidering the Nevada State Dental Board's initial decision is imperative. The board should empathize with their dental colleagues and move forward a motion/amendment to grant full licensure utilizing manikin teeth.

I would be happy to elaborate further and answer any questions the board has for me. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,  
Hunter Hinton  
DMD Candidate, Class of 2021  
Midwestern University, Arizona

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