

1 **Resolution Number:** 206-2024

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3 **Title:** Empowering Multi-District Advocacy Events

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5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership

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7 **Sponsor(s):** Adam Yang, Council on Advocacy Chair, Harvard
8 Parker Norman, Districts 1-3 Legislative Coordinator, Pennsylvania

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10 **Financial Impact:** *None*

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12 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board appreciates the sponsor’s passion for advocacy-
13 related events. ASDA’s national councils are designed to represent dental students nationally.
14 This means that the National Council on Advocacy works on behalf of all chapters across the
15 country, not focused on specific districts. Additionally, ASDA’s Board of Trustees does not have
16 the authority to mandate how districts choose to collaborate, or not collaborate, with each
17 other. This is because districts are separate legal entities that make their own decisions.
18 Advocacy leaders across chapters and districts are welcome and encouraged to collaborate.
19 However, the National Council on Advocacy should maintain its work on behalf of all dental
20 students nationally. Therefore, the Board recommends a no vote.

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22 **Reference Committee Comments:** Based on the verbal and written testimony received, the
23 reference committee does not believe that the Council on Advocacy should be tasked with this
24 initiative, as there are currently no policies or guidelines stating that the districts cannot host
25 joint district advocacy events. Based on verbal testimony shared, there is currently an existing
26 multi-district conference being successfully held organized by district leadership. This speaks to
27 the fact that districts are interested and capable of coordinating themselves. If this were to be
28 tasked to the Council on Advocacy, this could undermine the district legislative liaisons whose
29 purview it falls under. The reference committee reviewed the mission of the Council on
30 Advocacy and believes that national ASDA should focus its resources on national efforts.
31 Therefore, the reference committee recommends a no vote.

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33 **Background:** The Council on Advocacy plays a pivotal role in advancing ASDA's advocacy efforts.
34 However, its current scope is limited, preventing it from organizing events involving multiple
35 districts, as such events are categorized as non-national. This limitation has been further
36 exacerbated by ASDA's withdrawal from the organization of the DC Lobby Day with the ADA,
37 leading to a reduction in the Council on Advocacy's responsibilities. It is worth noting that
38 Council on Advocacy members already represent more than one district, and their collective
39 expertise can be harnessed for the benefit of all districts; therefore, be it

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RESOLUTION

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43 **Resolved,** that the 2024-2025 Board of Trustees be tasked with investigating ways to empower
44 the Council on Advocacy to a) coordinate virtual events involving multiple districts and organize
45 such logistics in collaboration with district advocacy chairs, chapter legislative liaisons, and
46 other equivalent positions and b) invite representatives of local and state dental societies, allied
47 professions, and companies with established working relationships with ASDA chapters and
48 districts as speakers and sponsors to promote interdistrict events and be it further

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50 **Resolved**, that the Board be tasked with investigating the feasibility of removing terms, like
51 "non-national events", in the bylaws that limit the Council on Advocacy's ability to plan,
52 execute, lead, and/or support events that encompass multiple district and be it further

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54 **Resolved**, that the Board shall provide a progress report to the sponsors and the Council on
55 Advocacy chair and members following the 2024 Fall Council Meeting. In the event that the
56 Council on Advocacy's duties are not expanded to coordinate interdistrict events, the Board
57 shall present alternative proposals and provide explanations to the 2025 House of Delegates.

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59 **Action:** The Chair moves 206-2024 with a recommendation of a no vote.

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