

1 **Resolution Number:** 302-2024

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3 **Title:** Amendment to the *Current Statements of Position or Policy* B-6 Domestic Abuse and  
4 Neglect

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6 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Licensure and Education

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8 **Sponsor:** Mikaela Gisch, 2023-24 District 6 Trustee, Case Western '24

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10 **Financial Impact:** None

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12 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

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14 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recognizes that there was verbal  
15 testimony in favor of the resolution. The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and to be placed  
16 on the Consent Calendar.

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18 **Background:** Dental providers are in a unique position to be able to recognize signs and  
19 symptoms of Intimate partner violence (IPV), human trafficking, and domestic abuse.

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21 Intimate Partner Violence is defined as Violent behavior within an intimate relationship, this  
22 behavior can occur between individuals who may or may not live in the same home. There are  
23 four main types of IPV: physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological  
24 aggression.

25 Human trafficking is defined as the unlawful act of transporting or coercing people in order to  
26 benefit from their work or service, typically in the form of forced labor or sexual exploitation.

27 Domestic violence: is defined as violent or aggressive behavior within the home, typically  
28 involving the violent abuse of a spouse or partner. This however can include parent, sibling, and  
29 roommate abuse.

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31 Studies have shown that victims of IPV, human trafficking, or domestic violence will cancel  
32 appointments with their primary care physicians out of fear that the physician will recognize  
33 signs/symptoms of abuse (bruising, lacerations, etc). However, they will keep dental  
34 appointments because they believe that dental providers will not be as attentive to these  
35 signs/symptoms.

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37 A thorough head and neck examination by a dental provider can mean the difference between  
38 life and death for these victims. However, despite the importance of the physical examination,  
39 it is equally as important to be able to provide concrete and comprehensive resources for  
40 victims on where to get help and how to escape their situation. Because of the unique position  
41 dental professionals are in to help victims, it is of the utmost importance that dental students  
42 receive adequate training to be able to know what to look for during an examination and how  
43 to respond.

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**RESOLUTION**

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47 **Resolved**, that B-6 Domestic Abuse and Neglect be amended as follows:

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49 *It is the position of the American Student Dental Association that dental students should*  
50 *recognize their legal and ethical responsibilities regarding the early detection and reporting of*  
51 ***the following: child, spousal or elder abuse cases; domestic abuse, intimate partner violence***  
52 ***or human trafficking. , and that*** ASDA strongly supports the incorporation of ***domestic***  
53 ***violence, intimate partner violence and human trafficking*** ~~domestic abuse~~ recognition courses  
54 *in the existing curriculum.*

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56 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 302-2024 with a recommendation of a yes vote and to be  
57 placed on the Consent Calendar.

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