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March 15, 2018

## **MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

### **A.9915 (Glick) S.7594 (Golden)**

AN ACT to amend chapter 537 of the laws of 2008, amending the education law relating to a restricted dental faculty license, in relation to extending the expiration of such chapter.

The New York State Academic Dental Centers (NYSADC), comprising Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, New York University College of Dentistry, Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine, Touro College of Dental Medicine, University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine and University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, strongly supports the enactment of this legislation, which would extend provisions of law that relate to the awarding of restricted dental faculty licensures for two years, and with it, ensure that New York's academic dental centers can continue to retain and recruit talented faculty members to teach the next generations of dentists.

This bill would extend New York Education Law §6604-b, the New York State Restricted Dental Faculty Licensure Statute, until February 1, 2021. This law was enacted in 2008 (Chapter 537) to allow highly-qualified, foreign-trained dental educators and researchers to teach at New York's six academic dental centers and participate in faculty practice plans through the centers. To be eligible for such licensure, a faculty member must be employed full time at the rank of Assistant Professor or higher at one of the six centers. The license is valid only while the faculty member is employed at the academic dental center that sponsored the individual, and only allows the faculty member to practice within the context of the academic dental center. In order to qualify for such licensure, an individual must have at least six years of pre-professional and professional education, which includes the same coursework required of a dentist licensed through the non-restricted pathway.

Prior to its passage, New York's academic dental centers were facing significant challenges recruiting talented dental faculty members because New York State law did not provide a mechanism for dentists trained outside the U.S. to practice dentistry on a limited basis without obtaining a full dental practice license from the State. Talented foreign-trained faculty members were therefore opting to teach and practice in other states, depriving New York's academic dental centers of their talents and leaving the state at a significant competitive disadvantage with respect to recruitment. This problem was compounded by the fact that faculty recruitment is already a significant challenge for dental centers, with high retirement rates among current faculty and a salary differential between private practice and academia that is approximately 3:1.



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The Restricted Dental Faculty Licensure statute has significantly benefitted New York State's academic dental centers, and has ensured their competitiveness in recruiting the talent necessary to provide the highest quality dental education. At present, there are approximately 50 dental faculty members using restricted licenses at New York State's six academic dental centers. These faculty members on average devote 75 percent of their time to teaching and research, underscoring that the statute has accomplished what it was intended to do.

If the statutory authority for the restricted dental faculty license is not extended, distinguished faculty members will be forced to leave their positions and, as a result, the quality of dental education and the operations of the New York State's academic dental centers will be jeopardized.

For these reasons, NYSADC supports A. 9915 (Glick) / S.7594 (Golden) and urges the Legislature and Governor to enact this bill.

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