

From: [REDACTED]
To: Bruggeman, Lawrence@DCA
Subject: Military proposal and discrimination
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 3:44:04 PM

To the Dental Board,

My name is Charles Huang, I'm a licensed dentist in Ca for 13 years.

I am writing this email because when it comes to the military and their shameful history in discriminating against the LGBTQIA community, ie. their don't ask don't tell policy; what protections will be made so that all military spouses/unions, whether recognized in the present or future legal sense are to be considered for this temporary licensure privilege?

The "law", which the dental board refers to undermines the fact that for many years, lgbt people could not and in some states still cannot have a recognized union. Therefore, this temporary licensure privilege can be seen as falling short as families not recognized in legal jargon, have always existed yet never benefited in such shortcuts.

The benefit of this shortcut to temporary licensure thus is not a benefit for families/spouses/unions not recognized in the legal jargon that has been riddled with discrimination, crime, and an alienation of the human right.

According to the Human Rights Campaign website,

The discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on gay and lesbian service members is officially in the dustbin of history. For 17 years, the law prohibited qualified gay, lesbian and bisexual Americans from serving in the armed forces and sent a message that discrimination was acceptable

But is it truly in the dustbin? With the current political turmoil, such as abortion rights, lgbt rights etc being debated and refuted; how certain are we that these past shameful histories of a large government organization will not revert back to its past?

Trans people still have limitations in serving this organization.

It is important to understand that there are lgbt dentists and staff who obtained their credentials without shortcuts.

We obtained them when the military still had a don't ask don't tell policy and thus their portal/door was closed to us.

Don't ask don't tell was a policy for this government funded organization. This policy restricted the freedom of speech to certain individuals in order for them to pass through their door.

Also, their current restriction on trans people serving is of present debate suggesting that restrictions and limitations still reside in this organization asking for a shortcut.

We were not allowed in their organization and now, they would like to join ours through a shortcut/benefit?

I can see many legal ramifications because of this.

Reciprocity means we treat you as you treat us. In the dental board, a 5 year reciprocity is enacted to other STATES who also acknowledge this term. Some states do not, such as Florida, and thus despite having practiced for 13 years, if I wanted to practice in Florida I would have to pass their state dental licensing exam. Therefore, if a dentist in Florida wanted to practice here in CA they would have to pass the western regional board exam, and licensure exams.

Perhaps Florida dental board should be the FIRST board to enact this temporary licensure exam for military spouses as they seem to have the same don't ask don't tell political mindset, because remember, trans people still have restrictions in serving in the military today.

So why add this extra temporary licensure shortcut when we already have a 5 year reciprocity clause?

And until there is debate on the questions proposed above, I cannot support such organizations with history of discrimination, asking for a shortcut.

There are ways to obtain the licensure. The shortcuts proposed is literally a benefit for biologically being a certain way, which would not include the lgbt community as we make up a minority of the population. And not just limited to the lgbt community. I ask, what about those with disabilities?

Perhaps we do need to consider a public hearing in order to address the political state of affairs and scrutinize the many questions dentists have. You also state there would be about 6 applicants... where do this number come from? 6 applicants that fit the norm?

Do we want to really want to adopt such political controversial turmoil into this profession? It is already cumbersome as it stands with regards to insurance claims and coverages.

Perhaps the board should be more concerned with discussing why certain insurance plans still have a "missing tooth clause." Which in CA is illegal as it is considered a preexisting condition. Having a missing tooth prior to the plan that has a missing tooth clause, means the plan will not cover any of the work in the missing area despite the individual having always been covered under a dental plan but may have changes jobs, and thus insurance companies.

Dental health is health care! It is all connected. And in fact I argue dental health is most important because the main difference between a human being and a robot autonomous entity, is, the fact that we need to eat food with teeth. Without them, life will never be the same.

Dr. Huang

Sent from my iPhone