



DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

August 14, 2025

Dr. Steven Chan, Chair
Christy Bell, Assistant Executive Officer
DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
2005 Evergreen St. Suite 1550
Sacramento, CA 95815

Re: Discussion of Foreign Dental Schools Program on November 2025 Meeting

Dear Chair Chan and Members of the Dental Board of California:

I logged on to today's meeting during public comment but was unable to connect so I am sending my comments via email as instructed.

I wanted to thank the Board for agreeing to continue discussion on foreign dental schools at their November 2025 meeting and request that the Dental Board include a presentation at this board meeting on the performance of the two Dental Board approved foreign dental schools and efforts to date to improve access to dental care since the foreign dental school program was eliminated in 2019 during their last sunset review.

My foundation has been working on legislation to bring back the foreign dental school program because it proved to greatly assist our mission and advance our goal of improving the lives of our communities by providing them with quality dental care. The Dolores Huerta Foundation is a 501(c)(3) community benefit organization that recruits, trains, organizes, and empowers grassroots leaders in low-income communities, majority Latino and Black, to attain social justice through systemic and structural transformation. Through this program, we have built a powerful network of over 20,000 supporters, volunteers, and voters in the rural agricultural communities of Kern County, Tulare County and Fresno County. The residents of these communities are primarily working class, low-income, Latino immigrants.

Foreign dental schools approved under AB 1116 underwent rigorous and meticulous review by the Dental Board. The fact remains that this program was effectively eliminated due to inaccurate information about the CODA process, specifically the amount of time it takes to be evaluated and approved by CODA. A presentation including 1) the number of graduates from the Board approved foreign dental schools; 2) the location data of where the dentists who graduated from these schools are practicing, would greatly contribute to the discussion.

We look forward to working with you on finding solutions to how best to serve all Californians.

Sincerely,

Dolores Huerta
President

Camila Chavez
Executive Director