

## **A Letter to WSDA Board Members from WSDA Member Dentists on the WDS Board**

For several years relations between WDS members and the WDS Corporation have been strained as each of us know. Since the 2011 WDS fee cut, and the years following without a fee increase, WDS member dentists have voiced their concerns and unfavorable opinions about WDS and the financial impact this has had on their practices. For the most part these expressions have been presented by either individual dentists or small groups of dentists, outside the realm of WSDA, allowing WSDA to avoid involvement in fee setting and potential violations of anti-trust laws. Recently, due to a change of leadership and direction, the WSDA has elected to seek significant bylaws changes that we each strongly believe are ill advised and ultimately destructive to WDS, WSDA and the profession of dentistry in our state.

**Make no mistake: Passage of the proposed bylaws changes risks destruction of WDS, WDS Foundation (Arcora) and the multitude of positive impacts those entities have on our patients, our practices and the communities we serve.**

Because the fallout from these bylaws changes would be unavoidably severe and impact Washington Dental Service to the core, WDS will use every resource at its disposal to defeat them. Since many of the proposed changes raise questions as to their legality, this WSDA-sponsored effort may force the parties into litigation. As members of WSDA, we believe that a costly legal battle would be an irresponsible use of WSDA's resources.

Although we appreciate that the proposed WDS bylaws changes were brought forth with the best of intentions, the unintended consequences are massive. As WSDA members, we encourage the WSDA Board to reconsider their fiscal responsibility, anti-trust limitations and the mutual pursuit of the greater good before driving this forward any further.

Dr. Gerald S. Phipps, DMD, MS – Board Chair

Dr. G. Douglas Beck, DDS

Dr. W. Kurt Labberton, DDS

Dr. Eve Rutherford, DDS