



## **Alert and Call to Action for all Registered Dental Hygienists licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia**

In September, the newly installed Virginia Dental Association president, Dr. Cynthia Southern was interviewed for the October/November/December 2022 issue of the Virginia Dental Journal ([https://issuu.com/vdapublications/docs/vdj\\_99.4/38](https://issuu.com/vdapublications/docs/vdj_99.4/38)). When asked the question: “Staff shortages are handcuffing the delivery of dental care. What can the VDA, and organized dentistry at large, do to mitigate the problem?” , she responded: “**One thing we need to look at is allowing assistants to do coronal scaling, that would be a big help**”.

**YOU**, as a licensed and college-educated dental professional, could be at risk of losing your career to someone whose qualifications are below the standards of our education and licensure. We need to act now, or the consequences could be grave for the profession of dental hygiene in Virginia and the public’s well-being.

The Virginia Dental Hygienists’ Association’s (VDHA) mission is to improve the public’s total health, and to advance the science and practice of dental hygiene. As you know, we earn 72-122 college credit hours including, but not limited to, biomedical, dental and dental hygiene sciences, medical and dental emergencies, pharmacology, local anesthesia, nutrition, and extensive clinical practice. **What could organized dentistry possibly hope to gain by allowing inadequately trained and unlicensed individuals perform substandard and potentially harmful oral health services to the public at large?**

Organized Dental Hygiene is responsible for protecting and advancing the profession and public safety. VDHA is the only organization working for the best interests of the 6,092 Virginia licensed dental hygienists and depends upon YOUR membership as numbers speak volumes to Legislators. **Please join VDHA TODAY to empower our organized impact beneficial to all.**

To join or renew your membership, visit: [www.vdha.net](http://www.vdha.net) or [www.adha.org](http://www.adha.org)