



December 5, 2016

Gwendolyn Mahon, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Dean, Rutgers School of Health Professions
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Dear Dean Mahon:

The New Jersey Dental Hygienists' Association (NJDHA) appreciates your response on the future of the Rutgers University School of Health Professions Department of Allied Dental Education, which includes the Rutgers Dental Hygiene Program. NJDHA is pleased to hear that the degree completion program will continue. However, as you know from our previous communication, NJDHA remains concerned about the potential loss of access to care among communities of need and the unfair employment advantage provided to dental hygienists receiving advanced degrees from outside of New Jersey, as well as the potential loss of credentialing for various requirements under New Jersey regulations. Educated professions ensure patients are protected. Indeed, the loss of professional leadership from Rutgers graduates will be a true loss for New Jersey.

NJDHA understands the complications of relocating buildings and equipment. You indicated that talks are still underway with Union County College. Indeed, many dental hygiene programs are housed within dental schools; is that potential action being explored as well?

Lastly, I ask your advice on how to take action to make sure this valuable resource for New Jersey is not lost. How can the profession have an impact on continuing the program? If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

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