



JESSIE RODRIGUEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 21ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rodriguez Votes for Oral Healthcare

MADISON – Representative Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek) voted for a package of bills aimed at promoting oral healthcare in Wisconsin.

“Oral healthcare is so important to our overall health. Oral healthcare problems can increase a patient’s risk of certain diseases or complications, such as heart attack, stroke, and diabetes. I’m proud to vote today for a package of bills that will promote oral health in Wisconsin,” said Rodriguez.

The package consists of the following legislation:

- Senate Bill 689 ([SB 689](#)) creates a licensure process for dental therapists in Wisconsin. Under the bill, dental therapists would be able to provide mid-level care under the supervision of a dentist; much like a physician assistant or nurse practitioner does in a doctor’s office.
- Ratifying the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Interstate Compact ([SB 692](#)) will help dentists and dental hygienists from other states to practice in Wisconsin.
- Senate Bill 702 ([SB 702](#)) utilizes \$20 million that was set aside in the 2023-25 state budget to expand Wisconsin’s dental programs at our technical colleges. The funding will be available to help Wisconsin technical colleges pay for one-time expenditures such as equipment and facility improvements or expansions.
- Senate Bill 706 ([SB 706](#)) provides scholarships for students enrolled in the Marquette University School of Dentistry *if* the Wisconsin resident student agrees to practice in a dental health shortage area for 18 months for each annual scholarship received.

“This bill package will help bring more dental healthcare providers to Wisconsin, as well as help our state grow more of our own providers over time. This is a great step to expand access to dental care throughout our state and especially in underserved areas. I hope to see each of these bills become law in our state,” concluded Rep. Rodriguez.

Each of these bills passed in both the Assembly and Senate on Tuesday. They will now go to the governor’s desk for his consideration.

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