

December 28th, 2025
Attn: Kathlene Gerrity, Executive Director
Connecticut State Dental Association
835 West Queen Street
Southington, CT 06489

Dear Ms. Gerrity and Members of the House of Delegates,

It is with deep gratitude for our Association, optimism for its future, and a profound sense of responsibility to our profession that I submit this letter of intent to run for President-Elect of the Connecticut State Dental Association.

Serving the CSDA has been one of the most meaningful and formative experiences of my professional career. Through progressive leadership roles at the local, state, and national levels—and most recently through my service as Vice President—I have gained a comprehensive understanding of the challenges facing organized dentistry, as well as the extraordinary opportunity we have to shape the future of our profession in Connecticut. I seek the office of President-Elect with a commitment to continuity, collaboration, and forward-looking leadership grounded in service to our members and the patients we care for.

As Vice President, I have worked closely with the President, President-Elect, Board of Governors, and CSDA staff to advance the Association's mission through strategic planning, sound governance, and member-focused initiatives. These experiences have reinforced for me that effective leadership is not about any single individual, but about building alignment, maintaining institutional strength, and preparing the organization for long-term success. The President-Elect role is uniquely positioned to do just that—by honoring the work already underway while helping to chart a thoughtful and ambitious path forward.

One of the accomplishments of which I am most proud to see come to fruition during my time in CSDA leadership is our Association's advocacy work to protect and preserve community water fluoridation in Connecticut. Through coordinated legislative advocacy, coalition-building, and the sustained efforts of CSDA members and leaders, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to enact state law that explicitly preserves community water fluoridation. This achievement represents far more than a policy win; it is a clear demonstration of what organized dentistry can accomplish when we speak with one unified voice on behalf of evidence-based public health, disease prevention, and health equity. As a dentist with formal public health education, I view this milestone as both a validation of our advocacy efforts and a foundation upon which future public health and legislative initiatives can be built.

My professional background as a practicing general dentist, hospital-based attending, and public health-educated clinician shapes my leadership philosophy. Daily clinical practice keeps me grounded in the realities our members face: rising costs, stagnant and sometimes decreasing reimbursement rates, workforce issues, student debt, regulatory complexity, and the ongoing challenge of delivering high-quality care in an evolving healthcare landscape. At the

same time, my public health training reinforces my belief that strong professional advocacy and organized leadership are essential to improving oral health outcomes statewide. These perspectives guide my approach to leadership—practical, data-informed, inclusive, and always focused on both measurable member success and the public good.

Throughout my service with the CSDA, I have had the privilege of serving on and contributing to numerous councils, committees, and delegations, including Strategic Planning, Governmental Affairs, Membership, Audit, and the Connecticut Delegation to the ADA HOD. I currently serve as both Vice President and Chair/Action Team Leader (ATL) Coordinator for the Connecticut Delegation to ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day, where I work closely with our members and elected officials to advocate for dentistry at the federal level. These roles have provided me with a working knowledge of the Association's governance, finances, legislative priorities, and operational structure—experience that is critical for effective service in the presidential track.

If elected President-Elect, one of my primary areas of focus will be growing and retaining CSDA membership, with particular attention to new dentists and early-career practitioners. As a new dentist myself, I understand firsthand the questions, financial considerations, and career pressures that influence engagement with organized dentistry. Membership growth is not solely about recruitment; it is about relevance, value, and connection. The CSDA must find ways to maintain its relevancy with both new dentists facing numerous new practice modalities, and seasoned dentists who are looking at how to navigate an ever-changing dental landscape. We must prove our value to both our members and the public as *the* trusted voice of dentistry in the State of Connecticut. And we must do this all by connecting, in-person, online, and every way in-between with our members, potential-members, and the community at large.

To that end, I am committed to advancing several concrete initiatives. Firstly, the establishment of a structured and meaningful mentorship pipeline that intentionally connects dental students, new dentists, and early-career practitioners with experienced members who wish to give back to the profession. In addition, I support the creation of a formal, state-level New Dentist Committee to elevate early-career voices within CSDA governance, identify emerging issues, develop targeted programming, and cultivate future leaders. These initiatives directly support improved membership retention, measurable engagement across career stages, and a sustainable leadership succession model that continuously develops new leaders. In doing so, we ensure that responsibility is shared broadly across a prepared and willing volunteer base, rather than overburdening the same dedicated individuals, allowing the CSDA to grow its leadership capacity and remain resilient well into the future.

Second, I am committed to offering comprehensive onboarding and leadership training for council, committee, and component society leaders. Providing clear orientation, governance education, and leadership development at the outset empowers volunteers to be effective quickly, enhances consistency across the Association, and demonstrates that the CSDA values and invests in those who choose to serve. We must prepare our leaders to both understand the foundational ways in which to effectively run their organization/meetings, including proper use of AIP Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, and also how to integrate and safely use a

widely emerging landscape of artificial intelligence tools to make their work more efficient and succinct, while maintaining professional integrity.

Finally, I will work diligently to modernize CSDA operations to enhance the member experience while maintaining fiscal prudence. As expectations for accessibility, efficiency, and transparency continue to evolve, the CSDA must ensure that its internal operations, technology, and processes reflect the needs of a modern professional association. This includes thoughtful investments in systems that improve communication, streamlined governance and volunteer workflows, and enhancing the overall member experience, while remaining disciplined stewards of Association resources. Strategic modernization—guided by data, member feedback, and long-term financial planning—will allow the CSDA to operate more efficiently, deliver greater value to members, and position the Association for sustainable growth without compromising fiscal responsibility.

In addition to membership growth, I am committed to advancing advocacy and leadership development across all career stages. The CSDA has established itself as a local, state and national leader in advocacy, and we must continue to build on that momentum. This includes equipping our members with the tools and confidence to engage in legislative advocacy, fostering relationships with policymakers, and maintaining Connecticut's strong presence at every level of government. Our success in preserving community water fluoridation is a model for what sustained, strategic advocacy can achieve, and it should inspire continued investment in this critical work. Additionally, I am committed to working collaboratively with CSDA staff, the Board of Governors, component societies, and future leaders to ensure that the Association remains strong, adaptable, and responsive to the evolving needs of our members.

I am hopeful about the future of dentistry in Connecticut and optimistic about the role the CSDA will continue to play in shaping that future. We are strongest when we lead with integrity, engage inclusively, and advocate boldly for our profession and our patients. If elected President-Elect, I pledge to bring energy, transparency, and a deep sense of stewardship to this role, while preparing diligently for the responsibilities of the presidency. Together, we will ensure that the Connecticut State Dental Association is and will always remain *the* trusted voice for the profession of dentistry in our great state.

Thank you for your consideration and for the trust you place in those who serve. I would be honored to continue serving the Connecticut State Dental Association as President-Elect and then as President, and welcome the opportunity to further discuss my vision for a strong, engaged, and hopeful future for our Association.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph A. Manzella Jr., DDS, MPH



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Education

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| <i>Samuels Sinclair Dental Center, Rhode Island Hospital at Brown University Health</i> Advanced Education Program in General Practice Residency (GPR) | June 2021 – June 2022 |
| <i>Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine</i> Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) | August 2017 – May 2021 |
| <i>Stony Brook Medicine Program in Public Health</i> Master of Public Health (MPH) | August 2017 – May 2021 |
| <i>Stony Brook University</i> Bachelor of Science in Health Science (BS), Magna Cum Laude | August 2013 – May 2017 |

Work Experience

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| <i>North Branford Dental Group</i> Associate General Dentist | March 2023 – Present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comprehensive general dental care in a group practice setting to patients of all ages in various facets of general dentistry including but not limited to routine and emergency examinations, restorative, fixed and removable prosthodontic, simple oral surgery, simple endodontic, simple pediatric, and other adjunctive services such as Nitrous Oxide sedation. | |
| <i>Samuels Sinclair Dental Center, Rhode Island Hospital at Brown University Health</i> Dentist – Per Diem & Part Time Faculty | January 2023 – Present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comprehensive dental care, one day a week on a biweekly basis to the patients of the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center, with particular attention to individuals with special needs. • Provide support and clinical guidance as faculty to the general practice dental residents as needed on the clinical floor. | |
| General Practice Resident | June 2021 – June 2022 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed a daily full schedule of patients that consist of individuals of all age ranges, with a significant proportion of such population being pediatrics and special needs. • Provided comprehensive dental care in a dental clinic and operating room setting in all facets of general dentistry including but not limited to; recall exams, restorations, prosthodontics, simple endodontics, and oral surgery. • Responded to Emergency & In-patient Dental first-call approximately ten days a month for 24/7 dental/OMFS emergencies at Rhode Island Hospital and week-day daytime coverage for dental/OMFS emergencies at Hasbro Children’s Hospital. | |
| <i>Gales Ferry Family Dentistry</i> Associate General Dentist | August 2022 – February 2023 |

Awards & Honors

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| <i>Pierre Fauchard Academy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellow, Inducted October 2025 |
| <i>Connecticut State Dental Association</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecticut State Dental Association Rising Star Award, May 2023 |
| <i>Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International College of Dentists Student Humanitarian Award, May 2021 • The Dimitrios Kilimitzoglou General Dentistry Endowed Scholarship, May 2021 • The School of Dental Medicine Alumni Award of Excellence, May 2021 • The Stony Brook Alumni Association Dean’s Choice Award, May 2021 • Pierre Fauchard Academy Oral Health Foundation Scholarship, May 2020 • Sachem Dental Group Scholarship, May 2018 |

Professional Affiliations

American Dental Association • Academy of General Dentistry • Connecticut State Dental Association • Shoreline Dental Society

Leadership Experience

Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA)

Vice President, May 2025 – Present

CT Delegation to the ADA Dentist & Student Lobby Day – Chair & Action Team Leader Coordinator, March 2025 - Present

District 1 New Dentist Committee – CSDA Representative, October 2024 – Present

Council on Membership – Member, May 2024 – May 2025

Audit Committee – Member, September 2024 – May 2025

Council on Governmental Affairs (CGA) – Member, October 2022 – May 2025

Strategic Planning Committee – Member, October 2022 – May 2025

Connecticut Delegation to the ADA Dentist & Student Lobby Day – Action Team Leader (ATL), April 2023 – March 2025

Connecticut Delegation to the 2024 ADA House of Delegates – Alternate Delegate, October 2024

Connecticut Delegation to the 2025 ADA House of Delegates – Delegate, October 2025

Shoreline Dental Society

Vice President, June 2024 – May 2025

New London Dental Society (NLDS)

Programming Chair, July 2022 – May 2023

American Dental Association (ADA)

Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs (CEBJA) – Member & ASDA Consultant, November 2020 – October 2021

American Student Dental Association (ASDA)

Delegate to the ADA 2020 Virtual House of Delegates – National ASDA, October 2020

Speaker of the House – National ASDA, March 2020 – February 2021

Governance Committee Member – National ASDA, March 2020 – February 2021

President – Stony Brook ASDA Chapter, April 2019 – April 2020

Programming Chair – District 2 ASDA, April 2019 – March 2020

Stony Brook University, School of Dental Medicine

President – Class of 2021, August 2017 – May 2021

Class Officers Committee, August 2017 – May 2021

Diversity Committee – Class Representative, September 2018 – May 2021

Re-Entry to Clinic Task-Force – Class Representative, April 2020 – May 2021

American Association of Public Health Dentistry

President – Stony Brook Chapter, August 2018 – May 2019

New York State Dental Association (NYSDA)

Delegate to the NYSDA 2019 House of Delegates, June 2019

Volunteer Experience

Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach

Connecticut Mission of Mercy (CTMOM) – November 2022

Stony Brook University, School of Dental Medicine

Dental Outreach through “Friendship and Oral Health (FAOH)” – Neltume, Chile, February/March 2020

Give Kids A Smile Day, August 2019

American Student Dental Association (ASDA), Stony Brook Chapter

New York State Dental Association (NYSDA), Advocacy/Lobby Day, February 2018, 2019

American Dental Association (ADA), Dentist/Student Lobby Day, April 2018, 2019

Skills

Digital Dentistry

- CAD/CAM scanning, design and milling of dental restorations such as inlays, onlays, crowns and bridges.

Publications

American Student Dental Association

Implementation of digital workflow in dental school clinics, *Contour Magazine*

March 2020, Vol 4, No 3, Pg. 38

LGBTQ+ Perspectives in the Field of Dentistry, *District 2 Newsletter “In The Loupe”*

November 4th, 2019