

January 26th, 2025

Attn: Kathlene Gerrity, ED

Connecticut State Dental Association

835 West Queen Street, Southington, CT 06489

Dear Members of the CSDA House of Delegates,

I am honored to submit my letter of intent to serve as a Delegate to the American Dental Association (ADA) on behalf of the Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA). Having had the privilege of attending last year's ADA meeting as an Alternate Delegate, I gained valuable insights into the vital role our association plays in shaping the future of our profession. I am eager to bring my dedication, experience, and commitment to this leadership position to further advocate for our members and the dental community at large.

During my time as an Alternate Delegate, I witnessed the impact that thoughtful discussion, collaboration, and strategic decision-making can have on advancing our profession. Representing the interests of Connecticut's dental professionals on a national stage requires not only a thorough understanding of the challenges and opportunities we face but also a steadfast commitment to addressing them with integrity and vision. I am confident that my experience in various roles, combined with my passion for organized dentistry, positions me well to fulfill these responsibilities.

As a Delegate, my priorities would center around these two core values:

- **Advocating for Our Members:** Ensuring that the voices of Connecticut dental professionals are heard and represented in ADA policymaking, particularly on issues such as practice management, workforce development, and regulatory changes.
- **Promoting Access to Care:** Supporting initiatives that address disparities in oral healthcare access while fostering solutions to improve patient outcomes across diverse populations.

As a New Dentist, I am deeply engaged in organized dentistry and understand the critical role it plays in supporting our profession. I currently serve as Vice President for the Shoreline Dental Society, and previously held the role of Programming Chair for the New London Dental Society. Additionally, I am actively involved with the Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA) through my roles on the Council on Governmental Affairs, Council on Membership, Strategic

Planning Committee, and Audit Committee. I also serve as the CSDA Representative to the District 1 New Dentist Committee.

My commitment to advocacy spans local, state, and national levels. I have attended multiple national ADA Lobby Days, beginning as a dental student. Two years ago, I assumed the role of Alternate Team Leader (ATL) for Connecticut's 2nd District, where I organized meetings with Representative Courtney's office to address key issues facing our profession. This year, I have served as ATL Coordinator and Chair for the CSDA delegation to the ADA's 2025 Annual Dentist and Student Lobby Day. These experiences have provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the issues that impact dentistry at all levels.

Outside of my full-time role in private practice, I dedicate time to working with special needs patients and teaching Dental GPR Residents at Samuels Sinclair Dental Center in Providence, RI, where I completed my own residency. This position allows me to serve New England's special needs population while mentoring future dental professionals.

My diverse experience as a practitioner, educator, and advocate has prepared me to represent the Connecticut State Dental Association at the national level as a Delegate to the ADA. I am committed to bringing the perspectives of a new dentist, private practice provider, and hospital-based educator to the table. I am passionate about advocating for our collective voice and values, and am deeply committed to maintaining strong communication between our state association and the ADA, ensuring that our members remain informed and engaged in the decisions that impact our profession. My goal is to not only represent Connecticut at the national level but also to bring back actionable insights and resources that benefit our entire dental community. I am ready to help continue to shape the future of dentistry for years to come.

Thank you for considering my candidacy for this important role. I would be truly honored to serve as a Delegate to the ADA and to continue working alongside all of you to advance the mission of the CSDA and strengthen the future of dentistry. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, thoughts, or ideas—your input is invaluable to me.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph A Manzella Jr., DDS, MPH

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Connecticut State Dental Association

835 West Queen Street, Southington, CT 06489

Dear Ms. Gerrity et al.,

It is with great enthusiasm and a deep sense of commitment to our profession that I submit my letter of intent to serve as the Board of Governors Representative for District VII of the Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA).

As a dedicated dental professional, I have always believed in the power of collaboration and advocacy to elevate the standards of our field, support our members, and enhance the oral health of the communities we serve.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to engage in various roles that have provided me with a comprehensive perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing our profession. From clinical practice to community outreach, I have strived to prioritize patient care, professional growth, and the promotion of oral health awareness. These experiences have instilled in me a profound appreciation for the work of the CSDA and its mission to support the success of dental professionals while advancing the health of the public.

As a potential representative of District VII, I am committed to fostering open communication between our district and the broader CSDA leadership. I aim to bring the concerns, ideas, and aspirations of our members to the forefront, ensuring that our collective voice is heard and valued in shaping the future of dentistry in Connecticut. I also pledge to advocate for policies and initiatives that address the evolving needs of our profession, such as advancements in technology, access to care, and the well-being of dental practitioners.

Key priorities I intend to focus on include:

- **Strengthening Member Engagement:** Encouraging active participation and collaboration among members to build a stronger, more connected District VII and dental community as a whole.

- **Advocating for Continued Education and Innovation:** Supporting opportunities for professional development and embracing innovations that enhance patient care and practice efficiency.
- **Promoting Access to Quality Dental Care:** Working to reduce barriers to oral healthcare for underserved populations in our state.

I am deeply honored by the opportunity to represent District VII and am fully prepared to dedicate my time, energy, and expertise to the responsibilities of this role. I know that, like those that came before me, I will strive to continue to uphold the integrity of our profession and advance the mission of the CSDA.

Thank you for considering my candidacy to represent District VII on the CSDA Board of Governors. I welcome the chance to discuss ideas, concerns, and hopes for the future of dentistry in our state with our members who will choose the next representative. Together, we will work to build a stronger and more united dental community.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph A Manzella Jr., DDS, MPH

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Education

<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

<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

<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 Killimitzoglou 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
<i>American Student Dental Association</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASDA District 2 Delegate of the Year Award, March 2020

Professional Affiliations

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

Leadership Experience

Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA)

- District 1 New Dentist Committee – CSDA Representative, October 2024 – Present**
- Council on Membership – Member, May 2024 – Present**
- Audit Committee – Member, September 2024 – Present**
- Council on Governmental Affairs (CGA) – Member, October 2022 – Present**
- Strategic Planning Committee – Member, October 2022 – Present**
- Connecticut Delegation to the ADA Dentist & Student Lobby Day – Chair & Action Team Leader Coordinator, March 2025**
- Connecticut Delegation to the ADA Dentist & Student Lobby Day – Action Team Leader (ATL), April 2023 – Present**
- Connecticut Delegation to the 2024 ADA House of Delegates – Alternate Delegate, October 2024**

Shoreline Dental Society

- Vice President, June 2024 – Present**

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.
- Able to effectively teach others how to utilize such systems.

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
- My top 5 DAT study tips, *ASDA Blog (formerly Mouting Off)*** February 3rd, 2016