**PROPOSED RESOLUTION: 6**

**Proposed By:** IDHA Delegation

**RESOLUTION:** That IDHA adopts the following policy:

The Illinois Dental Hygienists’ Association supports the establishment of a baccalaureate degree as the minimum entry level for dental hygiene practice.

**Justification:** The average associate degree program is two years and requires an average of 84 credit hours for completion, according to the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) 2012 Dental Hygiene Education Program Director Survey. The average baccalaureate degree program is four years and requires an average of 120 credit hours for completion. The average difference is 36 hours. Since an AAS in dental hygiene accumulates more credits than an average AAS and only a few credits short of a baccalaureate degree, the minimum entry level for dental hygiene practice should be a baccalaureate degree.