



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray to Deliver Keynote Address at
Massachusetts Dental Society's Beacon Hill Day**

The Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) will be holding its seventh annual Beacon Hill Day on Wednesday, May 20, 2009. More than 100 dentists, dental students, and allied staff are expected to participate by traveling to the State House to spend the day discussing oral health issues with their elected officials. Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray will be delivering the keynote address to attendees in the Great Hall of the State House at 12:30 p.m.

“The Massachusetts Dental Society, which has nearly 5,000 members and represents 84 percent of the dentists in Massachusetts, has a very close working relationship with the state Legislature to improve access to care and the oral health of every person in the Commonwealth,” says David S. Samuels, DMD, who on May 15 is being installed as president of the MDS.

“Beacon Hill Day for the MDS has proven to be a great opportunity for lawmakers and dentists to work towards those goals.”

Also at the event, State Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative John Scibak will be honored by the MDS for their many contributions to improving oral health in Massachusetts.

The Society, which is based in Southborough, filed an active legislative agenda for the 2009 session, including **H.444 – An Act Relative to Pupil Dental Health**, which requires that all public school students, prior to entering kindergarten, show certification that they have

received a dental exam within the past year. The MDS is also seeking passage of **S.891 – An Act Relative to Volunteer Dental Licenses**, which would allow retired dentists to donate their time and expertise to a free-care dental program or clinic, and **S.805 – An Act Relative to Oral Injuries**, which calls for the Department of Public Health to conduct a comprehensive study of oral injuries in school sports. In addition, **H.939 – An Act Relative to Anesthesia Coverage for Children Hospitalized for Dental Treatment** would provide insurance coverage for children receiving dental treatment under anesthesia.

Beacon Hill Day attendees will be urging legislators to take action on these and other measures that will expand access to quality care.

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The Massachusetts Dental Society is the organization dedicated to improving the oral health of the public and professional development of its member dentists through initiatives in education, advocacy, and promotion of the highest professional standards.