

**To: North Carolina Dental Society  
NC 16th ADA Delegation**

**Attn:** Dr. Shelly Olson, Delegation Chair  
Dr. Scott Cashion, Delegation Vice Chair  
Elle Basile, Public Affairs Sr. Manager

**To the North Carolina Delegation of the 16th District:**

I am writing to formally express my intent to serve as a Delegate At Large for the NC 16th American Dental Association (ADA) Delegation beginning in 2026. This role—dedicated to advocating for our members, safeguarding our patients, and engaging in informed decision-making at required meetings—aligns seamlessly with my leadership experience, commitment to organized dentistry, and passion for service.

“If you’re not at the table, you are on the menu.” – Dr. Gary Oyster

This quote, shared with me in dental school, has profoundly shaped my journey as a leader. From my earliest days as a student at East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine (ECU SoDM), I made the deliberate choice to be at the table—actively participating in both our local ECU SoDM’s Chapter and the on the national level as the 2015-2016’s District 4 Trustee for the American Student Dental Association (ASDA). While serving as president of our local organization, I was honored to act as ECU’s Liaison to the North Carolina Dental Society (NCDS) Board of Trustees, an experience that provided invaluable mentorship and reinforced my commitment to leadership. This path led to my selection as the New Dentist Delegate for the NC 16th Delegation, a position designed to foster leadership opportunities for new dentists. That initiative was a success—because I am more driven than ever to lead.

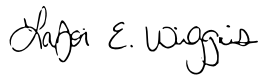
As a current member of the ADA 16th Delegation, I have consistently demonstrated my dedication through timeliness, preparedness, and full engagement. My tenure as New Dentist Delegate has given me critical insights into policy, legislation, and the inner workings of organized dentistry. With the patient mentorship of senior members, I have developed the confidence to actively participate on the House floor and in my reference committees. I am committed to protecting our profession from external influences and ensuring that dentistry remains in the hands of dentists.

Every day, I choose to sit at the table—not just for myself, but for my patients and colleagues. I encourage fellow members and students to do the same. My passion for advocacy has remained unwavering, even as our profession continues to evolve. Locally, I have been actively engaged in fighting for increased Medicaid reimbursement rates, a critical issue affecting both patients and providers. As a member of the NCDS Council on Governmental Relations and contact dentist for NC House Representative Carla Cunningham, I stay informed on legislative matters and engage in meaningful conversations with dentists and other professionals to drive collaborative solutions.

If selected for the Delegate At Large position, I will continue to be a strong, solution-oriented advocate for patient and provider rights. In today's political climate, our profession cannot afford to stand on the sidelines. I believe in taking action, developing concrete solutions, and ensuring that dentistry's future remains bright for the next generation.

As the North Carolina Dental Society and our profession evolve, I am committed to ensuring that we have strong, ethical leaders at the table—leaders who will get the work done and get it done right. My name is Dr. LaJoi Wiggins, and I am eager to contribute to the future of our profession. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dr. LaJoi Wiggins, DMD, MSD

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LaJoi E. Wiggins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Board-Certified Pediatric Dentist  
Member, North Carolina Dental Society & American Dental Association