

Legislative Testimony
HB 7375 AAC Health Care Access and Expansion of the HUSKY
Program

Human Services Committee, Thursday, March 15, 2007
Ellen Karandiecky, D.D.S.

Hello. My name is Ellen Karandisecky and I have been practicing general dentistry in Bridgeport for close to 23 years. I am the Past President of the Bridgeport Dental Association (1996-1997). I would like to comment on HB 7375, An Act Concerning Health Care Access and Expansion of the HUSKY Program.

I know first hand about the fees that are reimbursed for these services, as I have been treating children covered under this plan for the past 7 months. It is really challenging taking these reimbursement rates. Office overhead is unbelievable in Fairfield county, and in fact, the average dental office experiences between 60-65% overhead. Reimbursement rates must be raised if other dentists are to come on board to make a significant impact in treating the underserved.

If I were a young dentist coming out of dental school, I would seriously rethink starting a practice in this state, and choose a more provider-friendly area to spend the next 30 years of my life.

Don't make things more complicated than they have to be by imposing this dental health service tax, which most likely would just be passed on from provider to patient. Do the right thing, raise the reimbursement rates to a level that will help to make up our losses, and the dentists will do their part help solve this problem.

Thank-you very much for taking the time to read and thoughtfully consider my testimony.

Ellen Karandiecky, D.D.S.