

Thursday March 15, 2007
H.B. 7375

Honorable Members of the Human Services Committee,

It is with much dismay that I need to write this letter **opposing** Raised Bill 7375. We, the dentists of Connecticut, have approached the legislature time and time again about providing quality access to Dental care and it seems that no one is listening. Would you please partner with the Dentists of this state and provide a more sensible solution to this problem. This bill as written is not the answer.

It appears that the bill, if passed, would discriminate against Dentists as they are the only Health Care providers to be taxed if they do not participate in the programs mentioned in Section 4 of the proposed bill.

SECTION 4: For each calendar quarter commencing on or after July 1, 2007, there is hereby imposed a **dental health care services tax on each dentist**, except: (1) any dentist employed by the federal or state government during such calendar quarter, or (2) any dentist, who pursuant to a contractual arrangement with the DSS, is a provider of dental health services under the Medicaid program, HUSKY Plan, Part A or HUSKY Plan, Part B, during such calendar quarter. **The dental health services tax imposed shall be one percent of the net revenue of all providers.**

As you are probably aware, the current reimbursement rates for Dental services through these programs are abysmally low and do not even cover our expenses in many cases. We, the Dentists of Connecticut, have repeatedly tried to work with the State in developing a program that would actually benefit the individuals who need our services in a cost effective and efficient way. Every Dentist that I have discussed this problem with has stated that they would be willing to donate their time and expertise if the State would step forward and provide adequate facilities to provide proper care to any and all patients that qualify. It seems that our voices are falling on deaf ears. Is there anyone willing to listen? Why does the State Government feel that they need to impose such a punitive and discriminatory law in order to gain access to care for our fellow citizens? Wouldn't it be better to collaborate with the Connecticut State Dental Association to come up with a solution that we could all embrace? Please oppose Bill 7375 and partner with us to offer a solution that we can be proud of. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John F. Parnoff, DMD

419 Whalley Ave.
New Haven, CT. 06511
203-777-5385