



HB 7375

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To Whom It May Concern:

Imposing a 1% tax on dentists that choose not to provide services to Medicaid patients is discriminatory. Any bill requiring dentists to see Medicaid patients by imposing a tax on non-compliance will not work. It flaunts the very principals of the tax system, which is to promote social welfare by collecting revenue on items considered luxuries and allowing deductions for, or exempting those things considered "socially good".

It is cheaper, by far, to pay the 1% tax in most cases than to service Medicaid patients. Reimbursement rates, being what they are, do not even cover the cost of materials that are used on patients, let alone the cost of payroll taxes and benefits of the employees that service the patients.

For example, an adult hygiene appointment is reimbursed at \$19.50 per visit. The dental hygienist makes \$25 per hour and takes fifty minutes to do a typical cleaning. Already the dentist has had to pay \$20.75 for the labor, \$1.59 for payroll taxes and approximately \$3.11 for benefits. Before any office overhead is taken into account the dentist has already lost \$5.95 by seeing the patient.

The choice to not accept Medicaid is a matter of economics; it is not a lack of desire to help people in need. Imposing a 1% tax on dental practitioners will not increase access to care needed by the patients enrolled in the Medicaid program. The economic survival of dental practices in Connecticut dictates that Medicaid patients can only be seen on a limited basis or not at all.

Best regards,

Daniel R. Kaufman, CPA/ABV, CVA