

**Legislative Testimony**  
**HB 7375, AAC Health Care Access and Expansion of the HUSKY Program**  
**Human Service Committee, Thursday, March 15, 2007**  
**Vincent J. Michael DMD**  
**2614 Boston Post Rd.**  
**Guilford, CT 06437**

Members of the Human Service Committee,

My name is Dr. Vincent J. Michael and I am writing to you concerning the House Bill 7375, AAC Health Care Access and Expansion of the HUSKY Program, which proposes a 1% tax on net revenue of dentists unless they treat Medicaid patients.

As a young dentist who recently opened an office in Guilford, CT, I am acutely aware of the financial hardships associated with a new dental practice. Only through planning and great sacrifice was I able to open a practice to serve those on the CT shoreline. My office was not funded at all by any state means. Despite this fact, I provide services to those who live here at no cost to the state. I am bringing services that are *greatly* needed in the area.

To impose a 1% tax on dental providers, like myself, would be devastating. If this legislation continues - **YOU WILL DRIVE HIGHLY-TRAINED AND QUALIFIED DENTISTS FROM THIS STATE.** This will only serve to decrease the already dwindling number of providers willing to serve CT residents.

The rationale for funding this program through dental providers is fundamentally flawed. The financial burdens associated with dental practices, especially new offices, is immense. An additional financial burden would be such that young dentists would seek other locations to practice. The more rational approach would be to give dental providers tax-breaks or subsidized loans to help offset the costs associated with delivering high quality care to the residents of this state.

Connecticut is a wonderful state to live and practice; however, it will suffer a shortage of the dental providers so desperately needed if this legislation continues. This burden will be too great to bear. Please seriously reconsider the premises of this bill. Please keep the providers in mind. We need to be aided in our efforts to provide healthcare, not hindered.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter,  
Vincent J. Michael, DMD