



Avon Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, L.L.P.

Joseph F. Piccuch, D.M.D., M.D.

Stuart E. Lieblich, D.M.D.

Mark C. Fletcher, D.M.D., M.D.

Diplomates, American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

March 2, 2007

Senator Mary Ann Handley
Representative Peggy Sayers
Co-Chairs, Public Health Committee

Re: HB 7069
An Act Concerning Access to Oral health Care

Dear Chairmen Handley and Sayers:

As President of the Connecticut Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, and on behalf of the Society, I write to offer our unqualified support of HB 7069.

It is clear and without question that the current obstacle to participation by Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and other dentists in the Husky programs is the fact that payment for services rendered is far less than the cost to the doctor of providing those services.

I recently sent a questionnaire to our membership regarding their current participation in the Husky programs, as well as whether they would participate if the reimbursement levels were increased to the 70th percentile of current Connecticut surgical fees.

Only five of 47 respondents to date currently participate in Husky programs, and of those, only three are in private practice. The other two are in hospital/safety net institutions. Of the other 42 respondents who do not currently participate, 24 (60% of non-participating respondents) stated they would accept Husky program patients if reimbursements were increased to the 70th percentile of the normal and customary fee level. Another ten percent indicated they would consider participation under those circumstances.

Thus, it is clear that Connecticut's oral and maxillofacial surgeons are willing to care for patients enrolled in Husky programs. However, the obstacle is the currently inadequate reimbursement rates. This problem will be ameliorated, and patient access increased, by passage of HB 7069. The Society hopes the Public Health Committee will support it.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph F. Piccuch DMD, MD

President, Connecticut Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons