



ORIGIN OF  
DENTAL HYGIENE  
1913

**CONNECTICUT DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION, INC.  
ADVOCATES FOR ORAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT**

**Statement of Celeste Baranowski, RDH  
before the Public Health Committee  
February 29, 2008**

**In Support of Raised Bill 5540**

Sen. Handley, Rep. Sayers and members of the Committee:

My name is Celeste Baranowski. I am a registered dental hygienist and a Husky provider practicing here in Connecticut. I also serve as the legislative committee chair for the Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, and am representing the organization today in support of Raised Bill 5540, An Act Concerning Charitable Dental Care.

The *Connecticut Mission of Mercy* will be providing free oral healthcare services to low-income and needy individuals in Tolland this coming April. Dental practitioners may be coming from out-of-state to provide services at this event. Legislation will protect Connecticut practitioners and patients while allowing this to occur with providers not holding a Connecticut license. As you can see, the legislation speaks to permitting a licensed dentist and dental assistants from other states to participate in the MOM event. We support this. We also have out-of-state dental hygienists who would like to participate in MOM and I ask you to adopt a technical amendment that would clear the way for them to do so also. The amendment, which is included with my testimony, will permit dental hygienists to participate in MOM if they are licensed in another state, have malpractice insurance, and adhere to the Connecticut scope of practice for hygienists. These are reasonable requirements and we support inclusion of the amendment in the underlying legislation.

In conclusion, I want to thank the committee for taking up this legislation today. We are looking forward to a successful Mission of Mercy event in Connecticut this April and your passage of Raised Bill 5540 will make this possible. Thank you.

**Proposed Amendment to RB 5540:**

Any dental hygienist who holds a license in good standing in another state or territory of the United States may provide uncompensated care without a license in this state during the Mission of Mercy or other similar charitable event that provides free dental care and services to the underserved for a period not to exceed fifteen days per year, provided (1) the dental hygienist maintains professional liability insurance or other indemnity against liability for professional malpractice equal to or greater than that required in Section 20-126x; (2) the dental hygienist does not represent himself or herself to be a Connecticut licensed dental hygienist; (3) the dental hygienist only provides care and services to patients who are participating in the Mission of Mercy or other charitable event; (4) the dental hygienist only provides care and services authorized under chapter 384a of the general statutes under the supervision of a Connecticut licensed dental hygienist; and (5) each participating dental hygienist will be required to verify that he or she holds the required license and maintains the required professional liability insurance.