



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

6528

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Senator Crisco, Representative Fontana, distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. For the record, I am Paul Davis State Representative from the 117th District. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 6528 "An Act Concerning Dental Implants".

I was introduced to dental implants several months ago when discussing the best course of treatment for two diseased teeth. My own dentist sent me to an oral surgeon who evaluated my condition and in consultation with my primary care dentist recommended the implants.

Specialists have been doing implants for several decades with increasing regularity. With a success rate of between 90 and 95 percent, they are becoming the preferred method of permanent prosthetic tooth replacement. The process involves implanting a titanium post in the bone which then supports a crown or even a bridge. Sometimes bone augmentation (bone graft) is necessary to provide greater support. The prosthetic tooth looks like and performs like a natural tooth. In addition the mouth and gums generally recover normally from the surgical implant and require no more special treatment. This type of permanent prosthetic tooth replacement is a far superior method to a bridge which requires modification of other teeth for support and a great amount of continuous care to prevent entrapment of food and irritation of the gums.

While the cost of implants are greater than bridges, they do not have to be replaced or readjusted and as a result have little continuous care cost. For many years insurance underwriters have considered dental implant as a type of cosmetic surgery but this is no longer the case.

I strongly endorse including required dental implants as an insured dental surgical procedure. Thank you for your consideration.