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## **CONNECTICUT DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION**

### ***PLEASE SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 5630: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LICENSURE FOR AN ADVANCED DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTITIONER (March 16<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing)***

The Members of the Connecticut Dental Assistants Association (CDAA) sincerely thank the Public Health Committee for raising House Bill 5630. We are grateful for this opportunity to speak with members of your Committee about his important legislative proposal that will expand oral health care that can be provided by Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists.

- Section 2 of this bill sets forth specific guidelines to establish professional levels of dental assisting, including: Dental Assistant; Certified Dental Assistant; Entry Level Dental Assistant; and Expanded Function Dental Assistant.
- During the past several years, many other states have enacted laws to encourage dental assistants to pursue educational opportunities to increase and improve the oral health care that we can provide to dental patients. Here in Connecticut, we have worked very hard with Dentists, Dental Hygienists and the Department of Public Health to develop this proposal for expanded function dental assisting.
- We respectfully request the Members of the Committee to SUPPORT HB 5630 so that the Dentists, the Hygienists the Dental Assistants and the DPH can continue our important dialogue about providing more oral health care to more residents of Connecticut.
- There is growing recognition in the medical and dental communities that good, preventive oral health care is crucial to a person's overall physical and mental health. The overriding purpose of this bill is to allow Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists to provide more care to more patients.
- This proposal is also good for career advancement and quality of work life for Dental Assistants. This proposal will allow us to expand our educational and employment opportunities; and make our jobs increasingly more interesting and fulfilling. It's important for any working person to have the opportunity to advance in his or her profession and provide more good service to patients. It gives a person a very satisfying feeling to provide more high-quality care to his or her patients.

Thank you again for giving Dental Assistants the opportunities presented in House Bill 5630.

Please contact our Representative, Attorney Robert Shea (860-989-5567), if you should have any follow-up questions or comments.