

Legislative Testimony

H.B.5630

**An Act Concerning The Establishment Of Licensure For An Advanced
Dental Hygiene Practitioner.**

Public Health Committee

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ernest B Spira DDS

Good afternoon. My name is Dr Ernest Spira. I am a private practice periodontist with offices in Glastonbury and Manchester. I am also a Board of Governor of the Connecticut State Dental Association. Please accept this as testimony regarding H.B.5630, An Act Concerning The Establishment Of Licensure For An Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner.

Access to oral health care in Connecticut for the uninsured, poor and working poor has been under review for as long as I have been in practice (35 years). There is a Medicaid program providing limited benefits. The issues of both the provider and recipient create a complex of issues which block many from receiving care.

This bill, however, does not really address the access issue. This bill addresses scope of practice issues. There is a disconnect between scope of practice and the assumption that the change of scope would improve access in a financially constructive manner.

The movement of the ADHP into the private sector is highly probable based on the cost of education required for the additional training. In addition, the benefit to the state for the additional training for ADHP would not be cost effective.

Certainly the access to care issue is so important to the community. The continued dialogue of all individual parties is of paramount importance, even in these difficult economic times. But we should not confuse access to care and scope of practice.

Please reject HB5630. Thank you.

1420 Main Street #134
Glastonbury, CT 06033
(860) 659-0307