

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
FROM: GARY JACOBS for the CT DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION
DATE: MARCH 16, 2009

RE: SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5630: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LICENSURE FOR AN ADVANCED DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTITIONER.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Public Health Committee on behalf of the Connecticut Dental Assistants Association members (CDAA) for raising House Bill 5630. We believe this legislation for advanced credentialing as Expanded Functions dental assistants and dental hygienists will foster the delivery of oral health care to the underserved.

- I ask the Members of the Public Health Committee to please support Bill No. 5630 so that the dental team (Dentists, Dental Hygienists, and Dental Assistants) can continue to work together in our efforts to address the access to oral health care disparity in Connecticut.
- The 2008 Connecticut Department of Labor statistics estimate that there are 3,430 employed dental assistants in the State of Connecticut. There are approximately 450 Certified Dental Assistants in Connecticut that would immediately qualify for advanced credentialing as Expanded Functions Dental Assistants to provide needed dental services to the underserved.
- Section 2 of Bill 5630 defines levels of dental assisting professionals to provide a career ladder supported by the American Dental Assisting Association and the Dental Assisting National Board to foster employment retention and access to oral health care. Bill 5630 is the culmination of several years of work and uses the Ohio Expanded Function Dental Assisting (EFDA) model that has been in practice for over 30 years.
- EFDAs are utilized in over 30 states and the US Armed Forces. The United States Army Dental Command (DENCOM) uses this labor substitution method for "Dentists working with an EFDA provider are 40 percent more productive than their counterparts working without an EFDA." DENCOM's "expectation is that a dentist working with two EFDAs and one ancillary will be 80 percent more efficient with no compromise in quality."¹

Thank you for giving the Dental Assisting community the opportunity in House Bill 5630. We would welcome the opportunity to become an Expanded Functions Dental Assistant to do our part in addressing the access to oral health care disparity.

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¹ Spadaro, Stephen E.; Luciano, W. John; Jennings, Dennis E., The Dental Assistant, May, 01, 2004