

Testimony submitted by; Joyce Turcotte, RDH, M. Ed.

Submitted to: Senator, Jonathan Harris;
 Representative, Betsy Ritter and the
 Public Health Committee members.

In Support of: Raised Bill 5630

February 19, 2009

To the Honorable Public Health Members & Co-Chairs;

As a practicing dental hygienist and one that has excelled in the dental hygiene profession, attaining a Master's degree, I urge your support to pass HB 5630. AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LICENSURE FOR AN ADVANCED PRACTICE DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTITIONER.

For over 35 years I have witnessed dental neglect of the uninsured and under served populations with limited to no access to professional health care. It is our professional call to action to service the needs of all Americans and our human right to do so.

In this difficult economy the need for care will only grow with less opportunities to receive care with pending budget cuts. This proposed bill permits professional autonomy which is essential to reaching the masses. The Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner patterns the existing and successful model of the APRN.

Please support this bill to allow dental hygienists to advance their training and education and provide the much needed service to our communities and neighbors statewide.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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