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**Testimony to: Senator Jonathan Harris, Representative Betsy Ritter and  
The Public Health Committee members**

**In Support of: Raised Bill 5630**

Please accept this letter as my 100% support for HB 5630, an act concerning the establishment of licensure for an Advanced Practice Dental Hygiene Practitioner. I was very fortunate to be selected in 1972 as a staff doctor for a research grant to determine if licensed dental hygienists with additional training could do restorative dentistry (drill and fill teeth) as well as the practicing dentists of Massachusetts. In summary our research grant demonstrated that in 25 weeks and 30 hours per week dental hygienists were performing restorative dentistry equal to that of the dentists in Massachusetts. This isn't an opinion this is a fact verified by three "double blind" studies. In one of these studies evaluators of the procedures were chosen from the dental schools of Boston University, Tufts and Harvard. Another blind study the evaluators of the dental procedures were chosen from practicing dentists in Massachusetts. The evaluators were given specific criteria for evaluation of the procedures but didn't know if the person doing the dentistry was one of the hygienists or dentists who volunteered to be in these evaluation tests. The results of all three evaluations were that **trained dental hygienists could "drill and fill teeth" as well as the practicing dentists in Massachusetts.** All of this is verified in a book, The Forsyth Experiment by Dr. Ralph Lobene published in 1979 by the Harvard Press.

In the year 2000, The Surgeon General reported that the number one disease in children ages 5 to 17 was dental disease and this statistic unfortunately remains today. Passing HB 5630 will be the beginning of solving this problem in Connecticut! As I write this letter to you please understand that there are over 40 countries throughout the world that train auxiliary personnel to do dental procedures such as fillings, simple extractions without the supervision of a dentist.

As the nurse practitioner provided greater access to medical care, the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner will provide the access to dental care so desperately needed.

I could ask many questions but out of respect to your time I will only ask you to consider three questions:

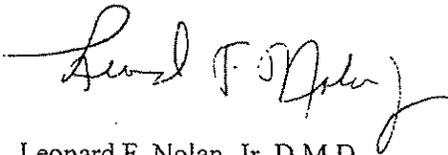
Should all children, especially those without the financial resources, those with debilitating dental diseases, those in rural areas, and many minorities be given the access to dental care they so desperately need?

Since it has been proven that dental hygienists, with advanced training, can provide dental services equal to that of a practicing dentist shouldn't the appropriate legislation be passed to allow the citizens of Connecticut access to dental care?

As we continue through this present recession shouldn't every possible professional training method be initiated to provide access to dental care for all the citizens of Connecticut?

If any of your answers to the above questions is yes then you have validated to yourself a positive vote for HB 5630.

Respectfully submitted,



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**First President of the Academy of Air National Guard Dentists**

**First Air National Guard Dental Officer to be promoted to Colonel**

**Assistant Surgeon General for Dental Services for Air National Guard**

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