Testimony to the Human Services Committee

Senate Bill No. 843 – An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning Social Services

March 3, 2009

Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and Committee Members,

We currently see adult patients in our endodontic practice that have nowhere else to go for their dental treatment. The waiting time for treatment at the UCONN Health Center is 3 to 6 months. I know this because I also teach in the Endodontics Clinic at UCONN. Although most of these patients we see would be considered "emergency patients," without having or keeping the limited dental coverage that they do have, these patients would eventually lose their teeth because they would not have the means to receive proper restorations. In other words, it would make no sense to cover dental emergencies and not cover subsequent restorations of these teeth. In addition, if only extractions are considered for "dental emergencies" then patients will have an access to care problem, and not every adult patient should be forced to extract a tooth that otherwise can be saved by root canal treatment and restoration. This is truly a health issue and should not be considered an effective way to trim the budget.

Respectfully,

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