

**Legislative Testimony  
Insurance Committee**

**SB 393 AAC Standards In Health Care Provider Contracts  
Tuesday, March 9, 2010  
Sheldon Natkin, DDS**

Senator Crisco, Representative Fontana and members of the Insurance committee, my name is Dr. Sheldon Natkin and I have been practicing dentistry for 37 years in the City of West Haven. I also have been teaching dentistry at Yale New Haven Hospital for more than 20 years. I thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony to you in support of SB 393.

I support SB 393 concerning health care provider contracts because it adds fairness to dental providers. It prohibits third party payers from dictating fees that dentists can charge for services they provide that are non-covered services in their contractual agreements.

Dental insurance plans help patients' access dental care by providing financial assistance to patients. Dentists of Connecticut, along with the Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA) have made inroads in addressing access to care issues over the past few years. The increase in HUSKY dental providers through the efforts of CSDA and DSS along with the CSDA's Missions of Mercy have certainly been a step in the right direction of increasing access to care. Dental insurers should also take some credit in helping this effort.

When dental insurers set fees for non-covered services it is a marketing ploy to help them garner more market share. It is unfair to have the dentists of CT pay for this marketing effort.

Dentists and Dental Associations are controlled by antitrust laws concerning the setting of fees and boycott. Last week the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to remove antitrust exemptions for health care plans. I would project that this issue of setting fees for non covered services might become illegal in the future.

There are more than thirty states which presently have proposed legislation to prohibit insurers from setting non-covered services fees.

Rhode Island and Oregon have already passed such legislation and they have been signed by their respective governors.

I ask for your support for this bill. It is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

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