



**Connecticut State
Dental Association**

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**Legislative Testimony
SB 177 AAC Vending Machine Sales
Commerce Committee, Thursday, February 25, 2010
Bruce Tandy, D.M.D.
President, CT State Dental Association**

My name is Dr. Bruce Tandy. I am a privately practicing dentist in Coventry and Vernon and currently serve as the President of the Connecticut State Dental Association.

Dentists have long recognized the link between good oral health and sound nutrition. We share medicine's concern that our young patients are consuming increasing quantities of sodas, sweetened fruit drinks and non-nutritious snack foods. The science is indisputable that increased sugar causes increased dental decay. Some sodas have as much as 20 teaspoons of sugar per serving. In addition, the phosphoric, citric, tartaric and/or carbonic acid in soda is linked to breaking down tooth enamel around dental sealants and fillings leading to more extensive dental treatment.

Additionally, the consumption of these sugary beverages and snacks carries a high caloric and fiscal price tag. The Federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention says that an estimated 9 million schoolchildren are overweight, and that since 1990 the number of obese children has doubled and the number of obese adolescents has tripled. According to the Conference of Legislatures, annual obesity-attributed medical expenses were estimated at \$75 billion in 2003.

As a practicing dentist in the state of CT, I ask that the members of this committee seriously consider these factors when deliberating over this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions that the committee may have and would make myself available at your convenience to do so.

Sincerely,

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