

Legislative Testimony
Human Services Committee
HB 5258 AAC An Advanced Dental Hygiene Practice Pilot Program
Tuesday, March 2, 2010
John R Gagne DDS, FICD

Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and members of the Human Services committee, my name is Dr John Gagne and I have been practicing dentistry for 20 years in the City of Waterbury. I thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony to you regarding HB 5355.

The house bill before you is a scope of practice bill under the guise of an access bill plain and simple. The Program Review committee would be the correct place for this bill to be discussed in my opinion. To the best of my understanding, these are precisely the scope type of issues they are developing a protocol for during their review process.

A pilot program requiring only a report at its conclusion with no predetermined measures of success, just recommendations for expansion is unacceptable. Secondly, 12 months is an entirely inadequate time frame for a pilot looking for revolutionary outcomes. It needs to be proven that there would actually be a significant reduction in costs of providing care thru a "ADHP type individual" that took 6 years of post secondary education to get that level of proficiency v. the 8 years it takes to be a Doctor of Dental Surgery. Will the savings be ~25% as the education time frame would potentially indicate?

If the ADHP concept is being so aggressively marketed by the American Dental Hygiene Association, why is it that no foundations, studies, etc are willing to support any of the pilot studies? It is because most any Dental Expert with a Financial or Accounting background will tell you the model is flawed from a business standpoint. Why not just send this handful of people to dental school if their academic abilities are sufficient and in 2 extra years you have a REAL dentist that you can employ in a state or local clinic for a prestipulated amount of time to repay their loans etc? They, in turn, have no limitations on what they can render for care up to the limits of their abilities!!

Finally, there is no such thing as a "non-surgical extraction"!!! Some of the most dangerous bleeding scenarios a dentist encounters are on loose, periodontally involved teeth. Profound bleeds have happened to all dentists if they extract teeth! Our training, advanced abilities to use medicaments and interrelationships with our specialist colleagues have all been put to the test at some point in our careers.

In conclusion, much research is being done on the topics of care extenders. This proposed pilot study is premature, flawed in concept, flawed in intended measurement of success and design. Please withdraw support for this House bill.

In closing, I would like to again thank the Committee for allowing me to testify before you today and would be happy to make myself available, now at any other time, should you have questions.

Sincerely,

John R Gagne DDS
1383 Litchfield Rd
Watertown, CT 06795
203 755-9444