



**CONNECTICUT DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION, INC.  
ADVOCATES FOR ORAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT**

February 28, 2011

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the Human Services Committee,

Re: HB 5616 -- An Act Concerning The Establishment Of Licensure For  
An Advanced Practice Dental Hygiene Practitioner.

The Connecticut Dental Hygienists Association, Inc. supports HB 5616.

An Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP) will provide *direct* access to care in a variety of settings to a diverse patient population.

The ADHP will be a licensed dental hygienist with a Masters degree, the general academic standard for mid-level providers, such as the Nurse Practitioner or APRN. In addition to the full range of dental hygiene clinical services, the ADHP will administer expanded services, which will allow increasing numbers of patients to access oral health care. The ADHP will also make necessary referrals to dentists and other medical professionals, serving to strengthen the crucial link between dental/oral health, medical, and community networks.

We have members who work within community and provide direct service to this diverse population. They see on a daily basis the challenges faced while trying to access oral health care and the physical, emotional and social consequences of poor oral health.

We understand the state of the economy in Connecticut. There is proof that providing opportunities for prevention and early interventions is more cost effective. We believe this proposal is the best opportunity to increase dental access for the citizens of Connecticut.

*Celeste Baranowski, RDH*

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