Connecticut State Dental Association

Fact Sheet: HB 5616 AAC An Advanced Dental Hygiene Practice (ADHP) Pilot Program

3 Risks Not Worth Taking

1.

Patients who now receive treatment from a dental hygienist may only receive dental hygiene services, which is only a portion of the comprehensive dental care currently provided to dental patients by the complete dental team. But if a patient were also to receive restorative or surgical treatment from an unsupervised (a collaborative management agreement is VERY different than supervision by a dentist) ADHP, they **may potentially be at risk for an incomplete or mistaken diagnosis or be potentially subject to harm if complications occur in what appears to be even the most routine cases**.

2.

Because this hygienist model calls for unsupervised (again, a collaborative management agreement is VERY different than supervision by a dentist) practice, **patients may falsely believe they received critical diagnosis and treatment planning services**, when in fact only a dentist is qualified to perform these services.

3.

The ADHP model calls for an inappropriate entity to determine accreditation. CODA (Commission on Dental Accreditation) is an independent body authorized by the U.S. Department of Education, to accredit the advanced education curriculums that would grant this new level hygienist credential. The Commission draws its membership from a broad cross-section of providers and includes a dental hygienist. **Why shouldn't CODA accredit HB 5616's ADHP?** This is obviously viewed as a shortcut by the proponents, but it would be at the expense of our fellow citizens.

******We Respectfully Request That You Oppose HB 5616******