

**Legislative Testimony**  
**Human Services Committee**  
**HB5616 AAC Licensure of Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners**  
**Tuesday, March 1, 2011**  
**John J. Hillgen, IV, D.M.D.**

Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the Human Services Committee, my name is John Hillgen and I have been practicing Oral Surgery for 15 years in the city of Waterbury. I serve on the boards of the Connecticut State Dental Association and as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Connecticut Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons. I want to thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony to you in opposition to HB 5616.

As a Medicaid provider, I do not see the access to care issue as an unmet need in this state. In our office, most oral surgery emergencies are seen on the same day and routine procedures are performed in a reasonable time period. It is my opinion the need for alternative dental providers is unwarranted and is an attempt to change the scope of practice for hygienists.

As an Oral Surgeon, I am particularly concerned by the absence of training requirements, namely with regard to the extraction of teeth, that would support the expanded duties proposed by this bill. The bill will be predicated on the competencies proposed by the American Dental Hygienists' Association. The proposed curriculum for attaining this competency is totally lacking. Since there is no existing curriculum to serve as a model, the proposed curriculum has no resemblance to the competency demanded for extraction performed by a dental student. From a public policy and safety point of view, it is inconceivable that this proposed bill would be allowed to have standing.

In closing, I would like to again respectfully thank the members of the Human Services Committee for allowing me to submit this testimony. If you should have any questions, I will do my best to make myself available at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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