

**Legislative Testimony**  
**Human Services Committee**  
**HB5616 AAC Licensure Of Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners**  
**March 1, 2011**  
**Mark B. Desrosiers, D.M.D.**

Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the Human Services committee, my name is Mark Desrosiers and I have been practicing dentistry for 26 years in the towns of Putnam, West Hartford, and Glastonbury. I thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony to you in opposition to HB 5616.

I recall my teaching in high school that if you wish to change something you first have to establish that change is needed and then you have to prove that the change is better than the status quo or better than other available options. You will receive other written testimony that calls into question that this bill is necessary to increase access to care. Written testimony submitted by Dr. Scott Bialik questions the lack of access.

Despite the facts Dr. Bialik details, if you still wish to further increase access to care, the most effective means both in terms of cost-effectiveness and expediency of implementation would be to use the current system of providing care and fund it to a greater extent. I, and many dentists across the state provide free and reduced fee care to our citizens. Additionally many of us volunteer our time through the Mission of Mercy program to provide care. Changing the scope of practice for one member of the dental team will not provide an effective means to increase care to our citizens.

A new mid-level provider that Connecticut would create would incur significant start-up costs since this provider does not exist anywhere else in the country. Additionally, ensuring the safety of care rendered by these providers would require considerable, additional training beyond what an Registered Dental Hygienist currently has. This would add to the cost of their training with expected increases in costs in their salary. As a legislator are you willing to make the decision to spend our tax dollars on this new type of provider that has no proof it might help increase access to care? Do you think that our state has the problem of access to care that this bill claims it will address? If so, is it worth our hard earned tax dollars to create this new program that may or may not address the "problem"?

Please bear with my philosophical approach to the subject. HB 5616 has little language. HB 5355 introduced in 2010 did attempt to create the mid-level provider I have discussed.

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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