

**Legislative Testimony**  
**Human Services Committee**  
**HB5616 AAC Licensure Of Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners**  
**Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011**  
**Scott A. Bialik, DMD/DDS**

Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the Human Services committee, my name is Scott Bialik and I have been practicing dentistry for 13 years in the town of Brookfield. I am a member of the CSDA (Connecticut State Dental Association), a board member of the CSPD (Connecticut Society of Pediatric Dentists), and a board member of COHI (Connecticut Oral Health Initiative). I also serve as a member of the DSS's Connecticut Dental Health Partnership Dental Policy Advisory Council, which provides oversight of our states Dental Medicaid System. I thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony to you in opposition to HB 5616.

First I would like to state that I am against passing this Bill, at this time, and at our state's current economic climate. The alleged purpose of this Bill is to license Hygienists to practice on their own as dentists for the sole purpose of serving underprivileged populations, specifically children. While sounding noble, there are quite a few flaws that make this Bill and it's premise irrelevant as I will outline below:

- 1) Premise that there is lack of dental access for underprivileged populations is incorrect. According to Dr. Donna Balanski who is in charge of the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership, all of her departments data shows that there is currently plenty of access to seek care in the Medicaid dental system. Her department designed and implemented a study to look into this very question. The results showed that 93% of attempts to obtain a non-emergency dental appointment resulted in an office appointment. 88% of scheduled appointments were within 4 weeks. The average wait was 11.2 days. 78% of those offices called were able to get the patient in within 2 weeks. This data may be obtained from :

Donna Balanski  
CT Dental Health Partnership  
Department of Social Services  
25 Sigourney Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Phone (860) 424 - 5342  
Fax (860) 424 - 4959  
E-mail [donna.balanski@ct.gov](mailto:donna.balanski@ct.gov)

- 2) Given the current economic climate our state is in, implementing this bill would have a large and unnecessary financial burden on our State's Budget. The Dept of Public Health would have to monitor licensing, and would incur all the costs of creating another licensed professional. Since there is no apparent lack of access to dentistry for the Medicaid Population, the fiscal note involved with this bill would be unjustified and inappropriate.
- 3) If there were indeed an access problem there are far more fiscally responsible methods and models that can be implemented, which I am sure my other colleagues have testified as alternatives.

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,

Scott A. Bialik, D.D.S.  
246 Federal Road  
Suite D 13  
Brookfield, CT, 06804  
(203) 791-2771  
scott@drbialik.com