

**Legislative Testimony**  
**Human Services Committee**  
**HB5616 AAC Licensure Of Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners**  
**March1 , 2011**  
**WILLIAM C. NASH, DMD**

Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the Human Services committee, my name is William C. Nash and I have been practicing dentistry for 33 years in the town of Fairfield. I have participated in all the CT MOM clinics over the past three years and presently help coordinate the restorative area of the clinic. I participate in Medicaid. In the past, I have spent time in New Orleans following Katrina and for several years, treated the clients of a local drug rehab center for women. Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony to you in opposition to HB 5616.

The issues in this bill are the same as they were in the 2010 Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP) bill (HB5355) which was before this very same committee. There was an access problem for Medicaid children until the fees were raised to 70% of the UCR (or average) fees. Once dentists could make a small profit rather than losing money on each patient, the problem disappeared. At last count, the average wait for an emergency appointment is 24 hours, for a routine appointment, 10 days. The story is much different for adults, where the reimbursement rates are sadly much lower. Raising adult rates would, I believe, have the same effect.

Unfortunately the overhead costs for ADHPs would be the same as dentists. They would have to buy equipment, supplies, pay utilities, staff salaries, etc. I am not aware of any discounts that ADHPs would receive from these vendors. In fact, their cost may be higher. In a brief conversation with an Insurance company executive, he could not imagine what they would charge for professional liability insurance, but was certain it would be significantly higher than dentist's rates.

In order for this model to work, it has to be economically viable. ADHPs would graduate with school loans from six years of post-high school education. Their overhead costs would be equal to or higher than a dentist's. Graduating candidates would expect to make as much money as others with a similar degree of education. They would have to charge as much as dentists' fees to make this an attractive career path. So where is the cost savings to the consumer? How are your constituents lives made any better by this legislation?

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,  
William C. Nash. DMD  
2157 Mill Plain Rd.  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
203-259-5328  
drtooth73@aol.com