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Legislative Testimony
Joint Insurance Committee Public Health Committee, & Human Services Committee
HB 6305 AAC Implementation Of The SustiNet Plan
HB 6323 AA Making Conforming Changes To The Insurance Statutes Pursuant To The Federal Patient Protection And Affordable Care Act, And Establishing A State Health Partnership Program
Monday, February 14, 2011
Allen Hinden, DDS

Members of The Joint-Committee:

As a practicing public health dentist, with over 35 years of experience, I wish to support the above two bills. Oral diseases are the most common among which afflict the American public. They account for more lost days at school and work than any other. Oral diseases also affect quality of life, particularly pain and suffering, employment opportunities and self image. People missing teeth are rarely hired for front desk work.

As for impacted wisdom teeth or retained roots, abscess and cellulitis, deep space infection is commonplace, yet medical coverage is denied. Why is one serious infection treated differently from another? During the past year, I referred five patients to hospitals for reasons of cellulitis. Two were suffering two from impacted wisdom teeth and three from infected retained roots, the result of tooth crowns rotting to the gum line and below. They were admitted and treated. The cost of not treating them was simply too great.

I urge you to extend health insurance coverage to 26 years of age, including coverage for impacted wisdom teeth and tooth roots. I also ask that you implement Sustinet, in particular, Sutinet G.

Respectfully,

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