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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
Carolyn J. Malon, DDS

Good afternoon to the Chairs of the Insurance Committee Senator Crisco & Representative Megna, Chairs of the Public Health Committee Senator Stillman and Representative Ritter, & to the Chairs of the Human Services Committee Senator Musto and Representative Tercyak, my name is Carolyn Malon and I have been practicing dentistry for25 years in New Britain and Farmington. I thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony to you in support of HB 6305 and HB 6323.

HB 6323 concerns extending health care benefits to dependent children up to the age of 26, to reflect recent changes in federal law. While the bill does not include coverage for routine dental care, it does provide for anesthetic, diagnostic x-rays and lab tests, and oral surgery for the excision of impacted teeth. This bill will ensure that young people who may have already graduated college, but have no dental insurance of their own, will have coverage for the extraction of their wisdom teeth, should the need arise. There are many occasions where patients may retain their wisdom teeth for some period into adulthood, and then discover that these impacted teeth are endangering the health of other permanent teeth. Without insurance coverage for extraction of these teeth, and the sedation anesthesia which is frequently required for the procedure, the financial cost can be substantial and overwhelming to a young person just beginning a career. I urge you to retain language in this bill which includes this important benefit.

HB 6305 deals with the Sustinet G plan. While I understand that the future of the Sustinet Plan is not assured, due to cost implications and possible issues involving the recent passage of federal health care legislation, I'd like to address one component of this plan. The Sustinet G Plan, in lines 1365-1375, includes dental care as an area to be included. As we in the dental profession are aware, dental health is an important part of overall health. It is unfortunate that the majority of medical insurance plans do not cover dental care, and that dental insurance is almost always a stand-alone policy. It is encouraging to see that the proponents of Sustinet understand the importance of dental care, and have included dental benefits as a component of the plan. I urge you to maintain the language in the bill which pertains to dental benefits when you are considering implementation of the Sustinet G plan.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify here today, and would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

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