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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
Peter J. M. Peterson, D.M.D., M.S.D.

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 Peter Peterson and I have been practicing the dental specialty of periodontics for 22 years in the towns of Farmington and Simsbury. I thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony to you in support of HB's 6305, 6323.

I support and urge you to support HB 6323, specifically the inclusion of extending dental benefits for dependent children to the age of 26. As the bill is written now the included benefits are very minimal and I think it would be more beneficial to those families affected by this to include coverage of routine dental benefits such as dental cleanings and restorations as well as the extraction of partially or completely unerupted impacted teeth. Many studies in the dental literature and the dental public health literature show connections between gum tissue (periodontal) and other medical conditions, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease including heart attacks and strokes, and pre-term low-birthrate babies. Additionally, many studies have shown that the minimum number of dental cleanings necessary to keep a healthy young adult's gum tissue healthy is 2 per year. As a public health measure providing even 2 dental cleanings per year can have a large impact in preventing much more serious and potentially life threatening medical conditions in future years.

I also support and urge you to support HB6305 AAC Implementation Of The SustiNet Plan, specifically Lines 1365-1375 that states in part that SustiNet Plans shall include"...dental care coverage that shall be comparable in scope to the median coverage provided by large employers in the Northeast states." This would make dental coverage available to more families, which is certainly a worthwhile objective.

In closing, I would like to again thank the Committees for allowing me to submit testimony. If you have any questions I would happy to talk to on the phone or answer them via email.

Sincerely,

Peter J. M. Peterson, D.M.D
291 Farmington Ave.
Farmington, CT 06032
860-677-8747 ppperio@comcast.net