

**Legislative Testimony**  
**HB 6549AAC The Department of Public Health Oversight**  
**Responsibilities Relating To Scope of Practice Determinations For Health**  
**Care Professions**  
**Public Health Committee**  
**Friday March 11, 2011**  
**Testimony of Allen Hindin, DDS, MPH**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee, I would like to thank-you for permitting me to submit to you this written testimony in support of HB 6549.

I have almost 40 years of experience in public health dentistry, including US Army (1971-74), school based health service development and implementation in CT (1975-81), full time hospital dental service and general practice dental residency director (1979-96), as well as directing a United Cerebral Palsy clinical dental service in Brewster, NY and my private practice in Danbury, CT (1996-present). I also worked with The Council of State Governments, which produced "Suggested Dental Legislation" and participated in Sunset 1980 here in Connecticut.

During the past 35 years, I have frequently participated in writing proposed regulations and bills related to dental care in Connecticut. I have submitted testimony and spoken before your committee on numerous occasions. It is from this perspective that I have grown to appreciate how difficult a task that legislators have, to make rational decisions regarding scope. Each licensed profession has both public and self concerns, each can point to new discoveries which justify increasing their scope of practice. All defend the space they have been legislatively allotted and often do so vigorously. Of what benefit to the public, which you represent, is often hard to determine, especially in politically charged environments. Truth becomes elusive.

I have long believed that some mechanism for objectively evaluating proposals regarding scope would be of great value to The Public Health Committee and other members of The Connecticut General Assembly. H.B. 6549 is just such a mechanism. It will go a long way towards making sense of what has for too long been otherwise regarding scope of practice.

Respectfully,

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