

Legislative Testimony
HB 6549 An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's
Oversight Response Relating to Scope of Practice Determination for
Health Care Professions
March 11, 2011
Carolyn J. Malon, DDS

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee, I am a dentist who has practiced general dentistry in New Britain and Farmington for 21 years. I have also worked at the Community Dental Center at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford and spent ten years as the dental consultant at a nursing home. I am a participating provider in the Medicaid (Husky) program, and my office is enrolled in the Home by One program.

I have been at the Capitol numerous times in the last few years, meeting with legislators and providing testimony regarding bills which seek to expand the scope of practice for health care providers. It has become clear that a process is necessary, through which such requests could be handled by the Public Health Committee, in order to ensure that such expansion of scope is necessary and appropriate. HB 6549 presents such a mechanism.

The Public Health Committee has an enormous obligation, in ensuring that requests for scope expansion will address the issue of access to care. It is a difficult task which the members of the committee face, when they are unfamiliar with the technicalities of the subject at hand. It is very time consuming for the Public Health Committee members to have to seek out documentation which would support the concepts with which they are presented.

The Connecticut State Dental Association has had a group which has been working on many aspects of the access issue for a long time now. They are able to help provide information with which the committee could make evidence based decisions as regards scope issues. Too often, legislators are presented with arguments which are based more on emotion than on fact. HB 6549 will help to take the emotion out of the decision making process.

I urge you to pass HB 6549. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

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