

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
John J Mooney, DMD

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Dr. Jack Mooney. I am a private practice dentist in Putnam with over 700 Medicaid patients in my practice. I participate in the Home by One program and also in a private practice partnership with Generations, an FQHC located in Willimantic. I am the Chair of the CSDA's Access to Care Committee and also serve on the ADA's Council of Government Affairs. I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of HB 6549.

Over the past several years, the CSDA's Access to Care Committee has actively been seeking workable sustainable solutions that will positively affect Access to oral health and ultimately improve the oral health for all the citizens of our state. Our Committee immersed itself into looking at a variety of different models, including some with scope increases, to see if they could be a part of the solution to the complex puzzle of Access. Our Committee found that some scope increase may be appropriate to positively affect Access, while at the same time we found other requests to be contraindicated. I will not burden you with the details of our work today, though I may have to in the near future. Today, I speak strongly in favor of HB 6549 because it sets forth a process with formal protocols that will allow you as legislators to make an informed decision on requests for increased scopes. Having sat through multiple increased scope hearings in front of this Committee since 2004, I personally know how emotional and passionate these hearings are. Claims are made, studies are cited and experts are quoted and you as Legislators are expected to act and do so without the time to critically evaluate the arguments that both sides have made.

With regard to the provisions in Section 2, I would request that the Public Health Committee consider working with the CSDA to improve the language. The establishment of committees to review the scope requests is appropriate as long as the members of the committee have the background and specific expertise to effectively adjudicate each request. It is not clear that the language as it is currently written, clearly incorporates the need for such expertise.

As a sizable organization, dedicated to the specifics and intricacies of oral health and all of its specialties, we are able to provide information and resources that might otherwise be difficult and time consuming to acquire. As such, I am supportive of the mechanisms that have been incorporated into HB6549 aimed at facilitating that process. I support a committee structure

that will find the proper balance of impartiality and expertise, and one that will have access to the most current and accurate information available.

I would like to thank the Committee for again supporting this important bill. I feel that this bill will give all the parties involved time to present their case, have their supporting data critically evaluated and allow this Committee to receive a report based on evidence versus emotion. The health and welfare of all the citizens of our state deserve no less.

Respectfully submitted,

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