

**Legislative Testimony**  
**HB 6549AAC THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S**  
**OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO SCOPE OF**  
**PRACTICE DETERMINATIONS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS.**  
**Public Health Committee**  
**Friday, March 11, 2011**  
**Scott A. Bialik, D.D.S.**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of H.B. 6549.

I am a Pediatric Dentist practicing in Brookfield Connecticut, and have been doing so since 1997. I have in the past served as a clinical instructor at Danbury Hospital and at Yale New Haven's Children's Hospital. I am a member of the CSDA (Connecticut State Dental Association), a board member of the CSPD (Connecticut Society of Pediatric Dentists), and a board member of COHI (Connecticut Oral Health Initiative). I also am on the Board of Connecticut's Home By One project for infants, and not only serve as a member of the DSS's Connecticut Dental Health Partnership Dental Policy Advisory Council, which provides oversight of our states Dental Medicaid System, but I am also a Medicaid Provider.

As you are already aware, deliberating on a request to change a professional scope of practice is an arduous, time consuming, and sometimes an emotional charged minefield to navigate through. H.B appears to be just the vehicle needed. All too often, legislators are presented with arguments which are based more on emotions rather than on facts. This bill appears to defuse emotions by creating a standardized framework that asks questions and looks at evidence. This evidence is important to determine the true impact on quality, safety, access to care, and yes the cost associated with such a change.

We at COHI (Connecticut's Oral Health Initiative) have discussed this Bill and it's ramifications with other Oral Health Advocate Groups such as the Dental Hygiene Association, the Dental Assistance Association, the Connecticut State Dental Association, and the Connecticut Health Foundation. All of these groups saw the wisdom of such a Bill and agreed to support it.

I urge you to pass H.B 6549 and I would like to respectfully thank the members of the Public Health Committee for allowing me to provide this testimony. If you have any questions I would be happy to address them.

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