



**CONNECTICUT DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
ADVOCATES FOR ORAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT**



“The mission of the Connecticut Dental Hygienists’ Association Inc. is to represent the interests of dental hygienists and support the advancement of the dental hygiene profession by promoting the highest clinical, educational and ethical standards and be advocates for the public’s total health through prevention and access to quality care.”

Testimony for Proposed HB 5242 - An Act Concerning Donated Dental Services

**Submitted by; the Connecticut Dental Hygienists’ Association, Inc. (CDHA)
Jody Bishop-Pullan, RDH, BS, CDHA Regs & Practice Chair and
Celeste Baranowski, RDH, CDHA Legislative Chair**

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The Connecticut Dental Hygienists’ Association (CDHA) supports Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program for Connecticut residents.

We all can agree that there is great need for access to dental care for Connecticut’s many underserved residents. Also we can agree that untreated dental problems can lead to local and systemic disease.

The premise here is that volunteer dentists, using their respective offices will donate comprehensive dental therapies to needy and vulnerable individuals, including adults, aged and veterans. Most of these residents do not have dental coverage and therefore can not afford to seek needed dental care and certainly not prevention. Medicare does not cover dental.

DDS is one way some may receive services. A full-time coordinator may assure that this program does not become another Band-Aid approach to solve unmet need in the state.

Therefore, CDHA supports the need of a full-time coordinator position for this program to assist in matching patients with services.