

**Legislative Testimony**  
**H.B. 5541 Certification for Advanced**  
**Dental Hygiene Practitioner**  
**Public Health Committee**  
**Wednesday, March 21, 2012**  
**Dr. Alan D. Schupack**

My name is Dr. Alan Schupack. I am a general dentist practicing in Wallingford. I have been practicing dentistry for twenty six years. Before attending dental school, I practiced as a dental hygienist for nine years. Due to my past experience as a hygienist, I have a unique perspective on H.B.5541.

I graduated from the University of Bridgeport in 1977, with an Associate's Degree in Dental Hygiene. Over the next year I worked as a dental hygienist and continued my education, graduating in 1978 with a Bachelors of Science in Dental Hygiene. I also completed a Masters of Public Health from UCLA in 1979. Since I enjoyed working in the dental field, I wanted to continue my education, allowing me to provide the highest quality of care to my patients. I spent the next two years working full time and taking prerequisite classes for dental school. In August of 1981, I started dental school at the University of Maryland. Our rigorous course load included histology, biochemistry, gross anatomy, oral pathology, pharmacology, oral surgery, four years of clinical labs, and the list goes on.

I graduated from the University of Maryland in 1986 with high honors and started working in private practice. I realized that my dental hygiene had uniquely prepared me for my dental education. It was in no way a substitute for it. The pre-dental sciences and the four years of dental school still left me barely confident as a dental practitioner.

Many patients present have complicated medical histories and extensive treatment plans. How will these hygienist handle these situations without an extensive medical background? What will happen when a situation arises during treatment that was not anticipated?

I believe dentist in Connecticut have made significant improvement in providing access to care for the under-served. To substitute a well trained dentist for a lesser trained dental professional is unacceptable.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Alan D. Schupack