

Division of Health Sciences

David M. Brady, ND, DC, CCN, DACBN
Vice Provost, Health Sciences



March 16, 2012

Connecticut Public Health Committee

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of HB 5541: An Act Concerning Services Provided by Dental Professionals and Certification of Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners. As the Vice Provost for Health Sciences and Director of the Human Nutrition Institute of the University of Bridgeport; a university housing the oldest academic program in dental hygiene in the country, the Fones School of Dental Hygiene. The Fones program provides training for dental hygiene professionals at the associate, baccalaureate and masters levels with accreditation by the American Dental Association and the federally recognized regional accrediting body New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), as well as the Department of Higher Education of the State of Connecticut. I am very aware of the level of training and the dedication to dental health exhibited by Connecticut dental hygienists and I believe they serve a critical role in promoting oral and overall systemic health. Providing the dental hygiene profession with an advanced practice category will help more Connecticut residents, especially those at risk and most in need of dental services, to access the care they need. It will also facilitate the UB Clinics to deliver a more expanded pallet of oral health care options to those we serve in our public clinic system, most of which are uninsured, underinsured, and of very limited financial means.

Please learn more at <http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/fonesschool> and <http://www.bridgeport.edu/ubclinics>

In addition to my role at the University, I am also a naturopathic physician in private practice in Trumbull, CT. I am all too aware of the need to change the emphasis in our health care system from an expensive reactionary approach to a more preventive and proactive model of wellness. With more and more data showing firm linkage between oral health and overall health it is imperative that we have more providers available to advocate this paradigm. Advanced practice dental hygienists will be an integral part of this process.

The State of Connecticut has a long history of upholding consumer choice and rights and access to health care. Please maintain this continued tradition and reject any attempt by any entity wishing to reject this important initiative out of selfish economic issues and professional turf protection.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DMB, ND'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

David M. Brady, ND, DC, CCN, DACBN
Vice Provost, Health Sciences
Director, Human Nutrition Institute
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