



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH March 21, 2012

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House Bill 5541 – AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES PROVIDED BY DENTAL PROFESSIONALS AND CERTIFICATION FOR ADVANCED DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTITIONERS

The Department of Public Health provides the following information regarding House Bill 5541.

- This bill would recognize the practice of expanded function dental auxiliaries and establish a new certification program within the Department of Public Health for advanced dental hygiene practitioners.
- In accordance with Public Act 11-209, the Department established scope of practice review committees for three scope of practice requests related to dental care and services: a request to increase the scope of dental hygiene practice to include interim therapeutic restorations (ITR) with hand instruments in public health and institutional settings; a request to establish advanced dental hygiene practitioners; and a request related to expanded function dental auxiliaries.
- The scope of practice review committee did not identify any public health and safety risks associated with allowing appropriately educated and trained dental assistants and dental hygienists to engage in expanded functions or with allowing appropriately educated and trained dental hygienists to practice as mid-level providers.
- Enactment of this proposal would increase the current scope of practice for both dental assistants and dental hygienists and expand their ability to practice to the full extent of their current education and training.
- Implementation and enforcement of the provisions related to advanced dental hygiene practitioners would have fiscal impact on the Department, as the implementation of a new certification program cannot be accomplished within existing resources.

The Department of Public Health has worked with the Public Health Committee as well as interested stakeholders concerning this proposal in the past and would be pleased to continue to do so. Should this bill move forward, the Department of Public Health respectfully request the opportunity to work with the Public Health Committee and other interested stakeholders on revised statutory language.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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