

**March 21, 2012 PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING**

**TESTIMONY BY LYNN RAPSILBER IN SUPPORT OF**

**RB No. 5541 AAC SERVICES PROVIDED BY DENTAL PROFESSIONALS AND CERTIFICATION FOR  
ADVANCED DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTITIONERS**

Senator Gerratanna, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Lynn Rapsilber. I am a nurse practitioner practicing in Gastroenterology. I am writing in SUPPPORT of Raised Bill 5541 AAC Services Provided by Dental Professionals and Certification for Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of this bill. This bill will increase access to quality and cost-effective dental care. Oral hygiene is key to overall good health. Ignoring this will cost more money in the future. Preventative care given early along with oral health education will prevent complications that will further add to health care costs. The problem today is the need is greater than providers available. We have seen the recommendations offered by the Institutes of Medicine, a multidisciplinary group, to remove barriers that prevent professionals from practicing to the full extent of their education and training. We are seeing more roles emerge as the workforce of healthcare is changing and we need to make sure all residents of Connecticut get the quality care they deserve by allowing these roles to provide needed improvement in the overall health care.

I urge your support of this bill to increase access, improve quality and timely care and promote excellence in oral hygiene health for the residents of Connecticut.

Lynn Rapsilber MSN ANP-BC APRN