



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

H.B. No. 5541(RAISED)

AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES PROVIDED BY DENTAL PROFESSIONALS AND CERTIFICATION FOR ADVANCED DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTITIONERS

To the Public Health Committee:

Testimony from Mary Moran Boudreau, RDH, MBA

March 18, 2012

Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association Executive Director
Resident of Windsor, Connecticut

I support Bill # 5541, AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES PROVIDED BY DENTAL PROFESSIONALS AND CERTIFICATION FOR ADVANCED DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTITIONERS. I urge your support in the development of an Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP) in Connecticut. The ADHP is a midlevel dental provider which has the goal is to increase access to oral care to those presently not being served. As evidenced by the number of committees, agencies, task forces, meetings I attend, with only some of which are listed below, there is a need for oral care services by a large population of Connecticut that are unmet.

As the CDHA Executive Director, member of the DPH Task Force on Oral Access for Older Adults, the Advisory Committee for DPH Dental Home By One, meeting with Connecticut Oral Health Initiative (COHI) and Chair of the Workforce Development Subcommittee of the Connecticut Coalition on Oral Health, (CCOH), member of the Leadership Committee of CCOH and many other committees and organizations, I constantly hear the need for access to oral care beyond the prevention we, dental hygienists, do already for many of our Connecticut population where there are not enough dentists providing it. The ADHP would be one option to correct this situation offering treatments such as diagnosis, preventive, restorative (fillings) and therapeutic services directly to the public in facilities where the need is greater than the supply of dentists. There are already registered dental hygienists (RDH) in many of these areas. Why not take advantage of this opportunity to offer care by dental hygienists who with advanced education can fill this gap.

You will hear and read reports that there are enough dentists registered to be Medicaid/ HUSKY providers. Though I am appreciative of the ones who take many patients with these payments, there are a number have applied, but never submitted for actual payments, are they seeing that population of patients for actual treatment? Many only see children, which is good, but what about those adults with special needs, older adults and all adults for that matter who cannot pay out of the pocket for treatment or do not have dental insurance. There is a need and the ADHP will help make a good contribution to answering this need.

The ADHP will be well qualified as a graduate with a Master's degree, educated at an accredited dental hygiene school that includes completing didactic and clinical competencies to perform the highest standards of clinical care. The ADHP will perform the scope of practice of a dental hygienist and have additional procedures such as limited restorative procedures combined with referrals to dentist and other medical personnel for total health. Licensure will secure the safety for the treated population.

It is important to increase the number of providers of diagnostic, restorative and therapeutic oral care through workforce models that culminate in graduation from an accredited institution, professional licensure and can provide direct access to patient care. The Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner is this professional.

I have so much more to say, but have focused on the need for this practitioner in CT. Please email me at maryb@cdha-rdh.com or call me at 860-688-7307 if you have any questions or need further information.

Respectively submitted,
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