Bonhomme, Penny

From: melissad@bridgeport.edu
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:45 PM
To: cmbrdh@gmail.com; PHC Testimony; Senator Gerratana
Cc: krussell@bridgeport.edu; kminihan@bridgeport.edu

Good Morning,
My name is Melissa Diaz and I am a Student Dental Hygienist, at the University of Bridgeport, Fones School of Dental Hygiene. I am very proud of my chosen profession and I would like you to support, on my behalf, legislation to establish the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner. The ADHP will add a new member to the dental team to deliver care to the underserved in Connecticut. Access to dental services necessary to maintain optimal oral health, which is an integral component of total health, can increase with the creation of a midlevel practitioner like the
ADHP. Please support the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner. This
proposal will make it possible for thousands of underserved patients who cannot obtain care, to receive needed dental care.
This type of midlevel provider, akin to the APRN (nurse practitioner) is the way of the future and as you know CT is the Origin of Dental Hygiene - Bridgeport 1913. We will be celebrating the 100th year, next May.

Unfortunately, the opponents in CT are disseminating inaccurate information. Below I have pointed out some truth:

- There are 11 states that have advanced dental hygienists, so why not
Connecticut, the pioneer of Dental Hygiene?
- The ADHP will be built on the scientific knowledge and evidence
based
skills founded in prevention based on the philosophy of a visionary dentist, Dr. Alfred C. Fones in Bridgeport, CT in 1913
- The education proposed for ADHP for each separate competency is
comparable to the education and training received in dental school for each competency, and would be more than adequate. However, the ADHP will not be doing as many competencies as they would if attending dental school. Thereby the term midlevel provider.
- A public health program's ability to increase treatment time
efficiently
reduces the barriers to care that patient's experience such as lack of transportation, time away from work or school and costs. It is reported that children on Medicaid live within 10 miles of at least two dental providers. 10 miles is a huge barrier. This report only speaks to children, what about their families, seniors, adults and those with disabilities.

Thank You ,
Melissa DIaz, SDH