

March 20, 2012

To the Public Health Committee,

My name is Phou Sisomboun and I am a student dental hygienist at the Fones School of Dental Hygiene at the University of Bridgeport. I writing in support of the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner Bill HB 5541. I am also a dental assistant at a community dental clinic in RI and I see the need for an ADHP in public health. There is a 4 month wait list in our clinic and there is not enough money to hire more dentists. An average patient requires at least 3-6 appointments for their restorative work due to the severity of their oral health issues. Our patients do not have the financial means to pay for a root canal on an infected tooth. Some patients wait 2-3 months for an extraction appointment, while increasing their risk for infection. Our dentist our booked 4 patients per hour and our hygienist see a patient every 30 minutes. We are busting at the seams and exhausted.

Last year as I prepared to leave RI and start the dental hygiene program at the University of Bridgeport, one of the dentist told me to look into an advanced dental hygiene role in which I can legally place restorations and work independently. This would allow our clinic and public health entities to see more patients and provide the necessary care. The dentists and dental auxiliaries in my clinic see first hand the lack of time and resources they have to serve such a large population.

After going through a very tough academic year at the Fones School of Dental Hygiene, I can say from personal experience that the education I am receiving is more than sufficient in preparing me for my future as a dental hygienist. There's no doubt in my mind that any ADHP program would be extremely successful at the Fones School of Dental Hygiene. There is a need for an ADHP in CT and in every state.

Thank you for listening,

Phou Sisomboun, SDH

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