

Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee
HB 6589 An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study The Scope Of Practice For Dental Hygienists
Wednesday, March 20th, 2013

Scott A. Bialik, D.D.S.

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, I am writing to you in opposition of HB 6589 An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study the Scope of Practice for Dental Hygienists.

I am a Pediatric Dentist practicing in Brookfield Connecticut, and have been doing so since 1997. I have in the past served as a clinical instructor at Danbury Hospital and at Yale New Haven's Children's Hospital. I am a member of the CT State Dental Association (CSDA), past President of the Greater Danbury Dental Society, A past president of the CT Society of Pediatric Dentistry (CSPD), and a member of the CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (CTAAP). I am also a board member of COHI (Connecticut Oral Health Initiative) and served on the board of Connecticut's Home By One project for infants. Furthermore I also currently serve as a member of the DSS's Connecticut Dental Health Partnership Dental Policy Advisory Council, which provides oversight of our states Dental Medicaid System and am HUSKY/Medicaid provider as well.

In 2011 Representative Ritter and your committee passed a bill that established a Scope Review Process, which set a standard for all "Scope" related changes. Its purpose was to remove emotions and politics from such requests and let the evidence be weighed on it's own merits in an evidence based manner. Also last year, the hygiene association proposed such a change in scope and the outcome of the committee established by this Scope Review Process found this proposal to not hold merit.

Now this year we have a new Bill HB 6589, which attempts to skirt around the established process from last year. With the current fiscal pickle our state is in, do we really need to waste our taxpayers moneys on a study of a study? Do we need to throw good money after bad examining a process that was fairly reviewed and dismissed as not having merit just last year? Would our money not be better put to use where a true difference can be made?

Please direct Connecticut's limited resources, money and time towards truly meaningful issues that benefit all of our citizens, not just a select few with special interests of their own.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott A. Bialik, D.D.S.
5 Briarwood Lane
Newtown, CT 06470
203-791-2771
scott@drbialik.com