

Testimony to the Public Health Committee

Regarding: SB 993:

AN ACT CONCERNING Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA)

March 13, 2013

Submitted by: Rosemarie Blossio, RDH

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to review this bill.

My name is Rosemarie Blossio and I am a licensed, registered dental hygienist living in Stamford, CT. I practiced for many years in a public healthcare setting.

Please defeat or amend this bill on my behalf.

This proposed legislation leaves too much room for open interpretation. As written, this bill allows the EFDA to perform many functions, which should only be performed by a licensed practitioner. This will not protect our residents. Please amend to protect the public **or defeat this bill.**

The ADHP will add a new member to the dental team, not replace anyone. It is time for CT to step up to the plate. After all, CT is the birthplace of dental hygiene.

Please amend the bill to include the ADHP. The ADHP (Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner) will be built upon the knowledge and skills of the RDH (Registered Dental Hygienist) a licensed professional just as the nurse practitioner (APRN) was built upon knowledge and skills of the public health nurse and answered the need for cost-efficient, easily accessible primary health care in rural, underserved areas.

Dental Hygienists are already in public health settings providing dental hygiene services. We already work hand in hand with other hygienists and dentists to treat children, their families, seniors, adults and those with disabilities whether uninsured or underinsured. It is difficult for those patients with dental insurance to afford the private co-pays.

In this economic time, ADHP will help Connecticut and its citizens. The ADHP is the more comprehensive choice and will create wider access and utilization for health care, which the expanded function auxiliary can not do on its own.

I hope the citizens of Connecticut can expect you to make the better choice for the dental profession and support the establishment of An Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP). If not please defeat this bill, on behalf of myself and those I spent my career caring for; we appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Blossio, RDH

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