Testimony to the Public Health Committee **Regarding: SB 993:**
AN ACT CONCERNING Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA)
March 13, 2013

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

My Name is Karen Sue Williams and I live in Wallingford, CT. I am a licensed dental hygienist who has been practicing for 22 years.

I oppose SB No. 993 - An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary; as it is written and would like to see the dental auxiliary, (EFDA) language edited to be more precise. Many assistants are on the job trained with no formal education. How will this effect public safety?

I would also like the bill amended to add the ADHP, mid-level provider. The ADHP will be controlled by the dental hygiene license to provide safe services. Oral health care needs that are not properly addressed; limit access to care. Please amend SB No. 993 to include the ADHP mid-level as stated in the 2012 HB 5541 and then vote to adopt it for this 2013 legislative session.

The dental hygiene mid-level provider or ADHP is a dental hygienist educated at the master's degree level. This is not just any master's degree – it is specific – to the ADHP profession – with specific education including didactic and clinical training. The ADHP will provide preventive and primary dental services to the underserved in Connecticut. The ADHP will help make it possible for ***underserved*** populations to access and utilize dental care directly within their community. Maintaining optimal oral health is an integral component of total health. The ADHP will work as a member of an integrated healthcare team, alongside hygienists, dentists and their assistants. The public health programs using dental hygienists and mid-levels are proven to be sustainable. Volumes of evidence-based literature ranging from the 1940's to present day exist in support of an ADHP.

In CT, in 2005 an ADHOC Committee studied the dental hygiene midlevel provider. Dental Hygienists have continued to compromise on this proposal. In 2012 we participated in the PRI (Program Review and Investigation) process and again in good faith brought forth a bill (HB 5541) which resulted in a tie - 14 -14 vote. The research exists and is readily available.

If you need further information and or discussion, please feel free to contact me. I would appreciate, if you would let me know your thoughts on this bill.

Please amend, SB No. 993 to include the advanced dental hygiene practitioner. Please speak to your colleagues on my behalf and oppose SB 993. Thank you for your consideration, interest and time.

Sincerely,
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