

**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: Michael Albert, RDH**

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

I would like to comment about the Dental hygienists commitment in resolving health care disparities in the state of Connecticut. In the fifteen years I have been practicing Dental Hygiene I have witnessed a sweeping change in the type and number of people who have had to compromise their dental care. The type of people has grown to include all the elderly which has grown in numbers. Statistics portray this segment of the population as one which once retired; up to 70 percent of them will lack dental health insurance. This along with the youngest segment of the population represents the most vulnerable of our society. I fail to see how this bill (SB993) if allowed to become law, would alleviate this growing problem of access to dental care. To allow dental assistants the opportunity to do dental cleanings while dental hygienists remain underutilized at home would be a step backwards in providing the best health care possible. The best educated and most skillful health care providers should be allowed to treat the neediest in society. This bill if allowed to pass I feel would not allow this to happen. I again oppose bill #SB993 as it is currently written. Please defeat or amend this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Michael Albert