

Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee
SB 993 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary
Friday, March 15th, 2013
Scott A. Bialik, D.D.S.

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, I am writing to you in support of SB 993 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary.

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.

This change in scope of practice for dental assistants under the supervision of a dentist would extend the ability of that dental practice to provide dental services to all populations, including those most at-risk for dental disease – low income, those suffering from physically and mental disabilities, and the elderly. Research indicates that inclusion of an EFDA in the dental team can increase the number of patients seen in a given dental office and increase the productivity of that office.

The AAPD (American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry) has stated the following about EFDAs (Expanded Function Dental Assistants):

“Numerous studies have demonstrated the efficacy and effectiveness of introducing EFDAs into the dental practice. The Navy Dental Corp and the Philadelphia Department of Dental Health have publicly stated that EFDAs allow for the leveraging of dental personnel to increase access.

Researchers from the University of Colorado in a study, *A Pilot Study to*

Determine

Barriers to Implementing Productivity Enhancement Strategies in Dental Practices found that when high delegation dentists were asked how delegation had affected their practice, they responded that they believed that expanded delegation had: (1) increased the number of patients seen, (2) increased productivity and income, (3) reduced the stress of practicing dentistry, and (4) permitted reduced hours without a decrease in income.”

This change in scope would create a career ladder for Dental Assistants and Hygienist, create jobs as well while maintaining the quality of dental care to patients.

I would like to sincerely thank-you for your time and am in hopes that you will support Senate Bill 993.

Respectfully Submitted,

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