

**Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee
SB 993 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary
Friday, March 15th, 2013
Steven Hall, D.M.D.**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Dr. Steven Hall. I have been practicing dentistry in Farmington for 16 years. Besides my private practice, I am a clinical instructor at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, I have been on the steering committee of CT Mission of Mercy since its inception, and I also volunteer at the Inner City Mission of Mercy at the Charter Oak dental clinic. I am here to testify in favor of Senate Bill 993 An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries.

Expanded Function Dental Assistants (EFDA) are not a new dental provider, and they have a long track record of safety and efficacy. They are an integral part of US military dental corps for the past forty years, are used in several other federal dental clinics, and are used to varying degrees in forty-four states. EFDA's are limited to performing only reversible procedures under the direct supervision of a dentist such as placing and carving of fillings after a dentist prepares the tooth, fluoride varnish application, making and cementing of temporary crowns. They are not permitted to scale teeth as a dental hygienist would. Last year the Department of Public Health studied the scope of practice requests for dental assistants and dental hygienists. The DPH report from the working group was very favorable for the establishment of EFDA in Connecticut.

I am pleased to see that a bill to support EFDA's will be heard on its own merit. During last years legislative session, the EFDA concept for Connecticut enjoyed wide bipartisan support from the Public Health Committee. Unfortunately, EFDA was also tied together with the ADHP model in the same bill which did not make it out of committee. It is time for EFDA to again enjoy bipartisan support.

I would like to sincerely thank you for your time, and I urge that you and your committee will support Senate Bill 993.

Respectfully submitted,

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