

Patient/General Public Letter in Support of ADHP/Opposing

SB No. 993 HEIMBUECHER

I Linda Heimbuecher, of 2 Wood St, Danbury, CT-

I know a dental hygienist who has had a great education and a great deal of experience with a wide range of clients in a public and private health care settings. The current bill 993 states that an expanded function dental assistant can perform expanded duties under the direct supervision of a dentist. As a patient, I would not be comfortable with someone not educated on the higher level, like a Master's degree, to perform such procedures. My other concern is that this bill 993 does not address the access to care needs in the public health setting. Based on his/her experience in public health the dental hygienist has seen many individuals not getting the care they need, and restorative and preventative needs have remained unmet.

I oppose Senate Bill 993 An Act Concerning Dental Assistant and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary, as it seems to me that it puts the public's safety at risk; I also oppose the establishment of a task force to study the scope of practice for dental hygienists because it is my understanding that it has been done previously.

However I do support a mid level practitioner for Dental Hygiene, who would primarily focus on public health settings and thereby increase access to care. The dental hygiene mid-level provider will provide full preventative care in addition to minimally invasive restorative scope of practice. This is how they intend to save Medicaid money and our tax dollars. A hygiene mid-level provider will be able to intervene in the early stage of the disease process so that it doesn't progress. This has the benefit of preventing extensive treatment that will increase oral health care expenses.

On my behalf, as my legislator, please make sure Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP) legislation like that found in the 2012, HB 5541 be put forward as a bill for a vote in this 2013 legislative session.

Respectfully,

Linda Heimbuecher