

**Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee
SB 993 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary
Friday, March 15th, 2013
Carolyn J. Malon, DDS**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Carolyn Malon, and I currently serve as President of the Connecticut State Dental Association. I have practiced dentistry in Connecticut for twenty six years, in Hartford, New Britain and Farmington. In addition to my private office, I have worked at the Community Health Center at St. Francis Hospital, at the Community Health Center in Middletown and also served for ten years as the dental consultant at Brittany Farms Health Center, a nursing home in New Britain. My volunteer service to the citizens of our state includes Give Kids a Smile, Mission of Mercy, and numerous other outreach events. I am a HUSKY/Medicaid provider. I am writing to you in favor of Senate Bill 993 An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries.

The Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary is a model which exists in forty four states, the District of Columbia, the Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, and the U.S. military. The use of EFDAs has been shown to improve efficiencies in the delivery of dental care, while maintaining the quality of that care. While no study has shown a direct link to improving access to care, it is reasonable to assume that increased efficiency can lead to increased access.

The educational process for EFDAs is cost effective and individualized, to provide the efficiencies necessary for various practice settings. EFDAs are limited to providing only reversible clinical procedures under the supervision of a dentist. I feel that this is most important in maintaining quality of care and patient safety. As a career ladder, the EFDA program is available to both dental assistants and dental hygienists. EFDAs in Connecticut would not be able to perform scaling of teeth as dental hygienists do, but would perform irreversible procedures such as making and cementing temporary crowns, placing and carving fillings after the dentist has prepared the tooth, and applying fluoride varnish to teeth.

Last year I was a participant in the work group which the Department of Public Health assembled to study scope of practice requests for dental hygienists and dental assistants. The report from the DPH which came out of this group was very favorable towards the development of an EFDA program and certification process in Connecticut. I believe that it is time to follow upon the work which we did last year, and pass legislation establishing an Expanded Function Dental Assistant during this legislative session.

I respectfully encourage you to support Senate Bill 993, and I thank you for your time.

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