

Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee
SB 993 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary
Friday, March 15th, 2013
Dr. William C. Nash

I am a general dentist in private practice in Fairfield. I am presently serving as President of the Bridgeport dental Assoc., Treasurer of the Ct. State Dental Assoc., along with serving on several Committees and offices on a state & local level. I have participated in Give Kids a Smile, done pro bono work in New Orleans following Katrina and am presently the local liaison for the CT MOM project in Bridgeport this June, having working at the projects since it's inception 5 years ago.

I speak in favor of this bill simply because it a time tested method of increasing efficiency in any dental delivery setting. The Expanded Function Dental Auxillary 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 proficiencies necessary for various practice settings. EFDAs are limited to providing only reversible clinical procedures under the supervision of a dentist which I feel 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 such reversible 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.

Please seriously consider this bill. When you do, I'm sure you'll agree it is worthy to be put into law for the benefit of the citizens of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

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