

Legislative Testimony to the Public Health Committee
**SB No 993 An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded
Function Dental Auxiliary**
Public Health Committee
Friday March 15, 2013
Oraine Ridley CDA, DHSA, COT

My name is Oraine Ridley I am a Nationally Certified Dental Assistant, Certified Orthodontic Technician and I have a diploma in Health Services Administration from the University of Guyana

I am also the Elected President of the Connecticut Dental Assistant Association and my goal is to support bill SB # 993 because I am directly affected by the inadequate care and attention required for the special needs population.

I work for a state run clinic where about 50% population are needy and special needs patients. Sometimes it takes three assistants and the doctor to deliver care for a special needs patient safely on a daily basis.

This experience taught me that it is impossible to give affordable dental care to this group of the population unless the dental assistant is supported for advance training to contribute towards the care of special needs patients in a cost effective way.

Many special needs patients are referred to the Uconn Clinics by other Dentist because of skilled man power and cost associated with this type of care.

Therefore changes have to be made with the dental care delivery system. Legal professional leverage is needed by Dental Auxiliaries to perform needed tasks for Dental Health Care delivery with the guidance of the Dentists.

It is clear from the statistics of 38 states that Connecticut Dental Environment needs dental auxiliaries to be more cost effective and utilized, and therefore extended training for the dental auxiliaries are necessary if any impact on dental care is to be made in Connecticut.

I urge law makers to support Bill SB # 993.

Yours truly,
Oraine Ridley CDA DHSA, COT