



**March 21, 2013**

**Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and Members of the Public Health Committee,**

My Name is Sandra Stramoski and I live in Shelton, CT and work, as a dental hygienist in Bridgeport, CT. I firmly believe in the dental team approach. I have been in dental hygiene practice for 36 years, and a dental hygiene educator for 8 years. One of the most unfortunate aspects of the efforts in advancing the dental team through the creation of a mid-level provider has been that the beauty of the way the dental team has worked for me has been obscured by the misperceptions brought forth by those who oppose its creation. I was part of the group working very hard to bring forth the language approved by last years' PRI process as substitute language. As you deliberate we hope you will put this well researched option forth as a bill, again this year.

**Some of our colleagues drew the following comparison which clears up the confusion. If we compare medicine and dentistry, it might look like this:**

**CNA** (Certified Nurse Assistant) **compares to CDA** (Certified Dental Assistant)  
**LPN** (Licensed Practical Nurse) **compares to EFDA** (Expanded Function Dental Assistant / *without the license & oversight*)  
**RN** (Registered (Licensed) Nurse) **compares to RDH** (Registered (Licensed) Dental Hygienist)  
**APRN** (Advanced Practice Registered (Licensed) Nurse) **compares to ADHP** (Advanced (Licensed) Dental Hygiene Practitioner)  
**MD** (Licensed) **compares to DDS or DMD** (Licensed)

This will close the gap by inserting the missing step in the dental workforce. It will add jobs that augment one another. Currently, in public health settings, mid-level providers work with collaborative agreements. In other words, we refer to our dentist partners and this will not change. The transition will be easy because it is how public health functions presently. Collaborative practice is currently found in a public health settings' policy, so it would not be difficult to institute. Our association has given the Public Health Committee background information and would be willing to answer any matter that needs clarification.

Please, amend the dental bill(s) (either S.B. 993 or H.B. 6589) to include both EFDA and the ADHP; by using the PRI approved - language from the 2012 bill (HB 5541) as substitute language. This language is being submitted by one of our colleagues.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sandra Stramoski'.

Sandra Stramoski, RDH, MSDH