

**Human Services Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
Proposed House Bill No. 6550 An Act Concerning Medicaid Provider Audits
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
Mark Desrosiers, DMD**

My name is Dr. Mark Desrosiers and I am currently the Immediate Past-President of the CT State Dental Association (CSDA). I am also an Endodontist in Glastonbury and Middletown as well as a participating provider in the CT Dental Health Partnership, the CT dental Medicaid program. I am writing to support proposed HB 6550, An Act Concerning Medicaid Provider Audits, which seeks to ensure that audits of providers who receive payments under the state Medicaid program are performed fairly and accurately.

The CSDA is proud of the fact that Connecticut has a dental Medicaid delivery system that not only works, but is now considered a national model. Currently there are more than 1,800 dentists who participate in the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership (CTDHP), formerly known as HUSKY. These dentists have ensured that any child in Connecticut can receive a routine dental appointment within 11 days, and an emergency appointment within 24 hours, virtually unheard of in other states. Not only is there access to the highest quality dental care available, but Connecticut children are utilizing that care as well at rates that are the second highest in the nation. Unfortunately, some providers have been responsible for perpetrating fraud and abuse within this program, and we understand the need for the Connecticut Department of Social Services Quality Assurance Unit to audit practitioners who have been identified as outliers. However, we have serious concerns about the manner in which these audits are currently being performed. While we agree that audits are important in order to identify fraud and abuse, the current system is placing undo hardships on all providers who provide Medicaid services. If left unresolved, this may result in the unintended consequence of dismantling Connecticut's very successful program, which will have a great impact on the citizens in most need of dental care.

I have heard from numerous dentists who have been audited by the Department. This proposed bill will help define the rules for any provider that participates in the Medicaid program. Our members want to help but are increasingly being frustrated by the haphazard approaches by auditors that have little to no understanding of the dental profession.

I applaud and support the intent of this proposed bill and offer my assistance in helping to further define it and make it even better.

Respectfully Submitted,

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