

**Legislative Testimony
Human Services Committee
HB 6550 AAC Medicaid Provider Audits
February 11, 2015
William Nash, DMD**

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Dr. William C. Nash. I am a general dentist practicing in Fairfield for the past 37 years. I am the President-elect of the Connecticut State Dental Association and a participant in all 7 CT Mission Of Mercy clinics, which have provided several million dollars of free dental care to the citizens of Connecticut. I am writing to you today in support of Proposed House Bill #6550.

It is imperative that DSS's auditing process be fair to all concerned while accomplishing their stated purpose, i.e. to root out fraud and abuse within the program. I fully support this effort. Not only are fraudulent practices wrong but they divert money otherwise used to treat deserving children.

Connecticut's Husky program has become a national model for meeting the needs of disadvantaged children. CT's utilization rates for Husky children equal that of children with commercial insurance, something no other state has done. In fact, the DSS has noted a change in the mix of dental services, a shift away from emergent and restorative treatment to a larger proportion of preventative services. This is a clear indication that the dental health of this population is improving. I urge you to preserve and even extend this progress.

The Connecticut State Dental Association has become aware of several dentists who have dropped Medicaid because they fear the specter of unfair audits. I have personally spoken to several dentists who are ready to remove their names as Husky providers. I have spent a lot of time trying to dissuade them, telling them that once our story is told and understood, we can get fair treatment. This bill promises those fair and reasonable audits.

I support this bill for establishing clear and transparent parameters for record keeping and conducting audits, establishing a formal appeals process and for reaching out to providers to educate and help them comply with regulations. Our organization would be happy to help in this effort to continue providing high quality dental care to those in need.

Thank you for your consideration. And thank you all for all the work you do for the betterment of the citizens of Connecticut.

William C. Nash, D.M.D.
2157 Mill Plain Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06824
203-259-5328