

**Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee**

HB 6814 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary

**Wednesday, March 11, 2015
N. Summer Lerch, DDS, FAGD**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Dr. N. Summer Lerch. I have been practicing dentistry in New Haven, CT for over 30 years. My volunteer service to the citizens of our state include Give Kids A Smile, CT Mission of Mercy, Smiling Souls and pro bono work in my office for woman of limited means and survivors of domestic violence.

I am here to testify in favor of **H.B. No. 6814 AN ACT CONCERNING DENTAL ASSISTANTS AND EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL AUXILIARY.** This bill proposes expanding the scope of practice for BOTH dental assistants and dental hygienists. Expanded Duty Dental Auxiliary or EFDAs is an advanced certification for dental office auxiliaries, applicable to both men and women trained as dental assistants AND as dental hygienists. EFDA's perform a wide range of reversible clinical procedures in concert with a licensed dentist. This includes placing and adjusting a variety of restorative materials once a dentist has removed the dental disease known as caries (cavities) or otherwise has prepared the teeth. Other capacities include advanced impression taking and provisional placement. EFDAs have demonstrated increased efficiencies within dental care facilities while maintaining high quality care. Overall EFDAs can increase the number of people seen in all types of dental facilities. All of this is under the watchful eye of the dentist.

Further, EFDA is hardly a new and untested concept. EFDA, in one form or another, has been enacted within 44 states, as well as in the District of Columbia. It has been accepted practice in the public sector, including the Indian Health Service, US Public Health Service, and in the US military over the past 40 YEARS. Fact is, they are so well accepted that all studies of their efficacy, usefulness and impact have been suspended. Further, no state or facility has EVER rescinded their licensure.

Why do we want EFDA's? As a woman dentist, I want my auxiliaries to have an advancement path. I want their already finely honed communication and patient skills to be able to make a bigger difference. Together, we want the option to be able to serve more citizens in our state.

It is time for the State of Connecticut to join the other states in the critical component of dental patient care.

I thank you for your time and in advance, for your support of HB 6814.

Respectfully Submitted,

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