

Dental Testimony

**Hartford Public High School
School Based Health Center**

March 11, 2015

Dr. Hede

Talking Points in support of RB-917:

- 1. Tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease**
- 2. Dental decay is 5x more common than Asthma**
- 3. Dental decay is 7x more common than Hay Fever!**
- 4. Nearly twice as many children with low Socio-Economic Status ages 2-9 years of age have at least THREE decayed or filled primary teeth as compared to children from families with higher income levels. This is directly seen in our health care clinic.**
- 5. Barriers to Access to Dental Health Services in our school:**
 - a. Lack of awareness of seriousness of oral health.**
 - b. Lack of or insufficient dental insurance.**
 - c. Lack of transportation.**
 - d. Parents/Guardians cannot get off work to take student.**
 - e. Limited income.**
 - f. Lost school time—academics are important!**
- 6. Barriers currently improving due to past actions:**
 - a. Low community to private provider ratios.**
 - b. Dentist non-participation with medicare.**
 - c. Low Medicaid reimbursement for dental services.**

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Dr. Hede, Dentist assigned to HPHS.

Nancy Brescia, APRN

HPHS

