

**Legislative Testimony  
Public Health Committee**

**HB 6275 AAC Certification Of Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners**

**Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Jeffrey M. Shuster, D.D.S.**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Dr. Jeffrey M. Shuster. I have been practicing dentistry in Cromwell, Connecticut, for 37 years. As a member of the Connecticut State Dental Association's Council on Legislation, I am hereby submitting this written testimony asking that you to **oppose** House Bill 6275 An Act Concerning Certification Of Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners.

The "Statement of Purpose" of this bill points to "access to care for underserved populations". It must be stated that, **Connecticut does not** have any access to care issues nor do we experience difficulties in meeting the needs of various "underserved populations". Connecticut has more than 1,900 dental providers participating in HUSKY/Medicaid in CT. Enrollees can get a routine appointment within 10 days and an emergency appointment within 24 hours. Additionally, all HUSKY/Medicaid patients have access to care within 15 miles of their residence, and almost all (99%) are able to access two or more dentists within 10 miles of their residence.

Therefore, this bill proposes to address and solve problems where none exist. The issue of "improved access to care for underserved populations" was thoroughly studied in 2011 at the request of the Public Health Committee. At that time, the study was conducted by the Department of Public Health. The Department submitted its findings to the Public Health Committee in February of 2012. Their report concluded that:

**"Data provided by the Department of Social Services suggests that access is no longer an issue for the CT Medicaid population; utilization is the problem."**

Members of the Public Health Committee may recall **defeating** similar bills in past sessions, more specifically: HB 5630 in 2009, HB 5355 in 2010, HB 5616 in 2011, HB5541 in 2012, and HB 6589 in 2013.

**Financially and Administratively**, it should be noted, that currently there is no entity to give oversight for the holders of this proposed certificate. Additionally, there is no licensing board to uphold standards or to test a candidate's proficiency in performing various *irreversible* procedures. There will be significant costs to the State in regulatory oversight and administrative costs to implement and maintain this redundant agency.

I would like to thank-you for your time and hope that you will **oppose HB6275** and any effort to amend Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner language to any other bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

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