

**Legislative Testimony**  
**Public Health Committee**  
**HB 6275 AAC Certification of Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2015**  
**Jeffrey Rosow, D.M.D.**

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

I'm Dr. Jeffrey Rosow, the dental director at Connecticut Valley Hospital, a state psychiatric hospital which also has a substance abuse program located in Middletown. I've worked as a dentist at CVH for the last 34 years, during which I have been the dental director for the past 22. First I need to state clearly that I'm expressing my own opinion based on my professional experiences rather than representing the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. I am submitting this written testimony opposing Bill # 6275 An Act Concerning Certification of Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners. As a dentist serving a special needs population with generally limited access to dental care outside of our hospital, I'm strongly in favor of practical, effective, and economically feasible solutions to Ct. access to care issues. I've participated in Mission of Mercy, and am on the steering committee. I also am on the Access to Care Committee of the Ct. Dental Association. In those capacities I've read numerous documents and participated in many discussions re mid-level provider models, what is happening in other states in addition to our own to increase access to dental care for all. It's been proven that by increasing reimbursement rates to dentists under HUSKY and Medicaid huge impacts can be made. Because CT has more than 1,900 dental providers participating in HUSKY/Medicaid, ANY child in CT can get a routine appointment within 10 days and an emergency appointment within 24 hours. In addition, 100% of HUSKY/Medicaid patients are able to access care within 15 miles of their residence while 99% are able to access two or more dentists within 10 miles of their place of residence. And, the State will PAY FOR THEIR TRANSPORTATION! Three quarters of the dental care provided to Medicaid enrollees today is through private dental offices enrolled in HUSKY/Medicaid. As far as practicality and expense, **"There Will be Significant Costs to the State in the Form of Regulation and Oversight**

- There is **currently no regulatory state agency** with oversight responsibilities **focused on quality of care standards that might be associated with the Mid-Level Hygienist**, such as the Dental Commission which regulates dentists.
- The State would need to develop and implement **an entirely new process** of examinations in order for ADHPs to demonstrate clinical competency and **ensure patient safety.** "

ADHP bills have been proposed in the past 2009 – 2013 and been rejected. It is a very impractical model. I'm not sure if passed how many hygienists would invest the time and money that it would cost, and provide care to low income people vs seeking higher paying opportunities. In addition, would mid-level providers increase access to dental care in Ct.?

If so I think there are much more practical and proven models to explore, For example Dental Health Aid Therapists with their track record both nationally and internationally, and a more economical and practical approach to both education and culture. The passage of Bill 6814 regarding Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries which will be discussed by your committee should almost be a no brainer based on it's success in 45 other states along with it's low economic cost. This also should help increase access to care.

I would like to sincerely thank-you for your time and am in hopes that you will reject House Bill 6275. It is a very costly and impractical approach to a problem that can be solved in much simpler and cost effective ways than what is being proposed using this model.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Rosow D.M.D  
Dental Director  
Connecticut Valley Hospital  
Middletown Ct. 06410  
860-262-6330  
cvhdentist@aol.com  
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