

**Legislative Testimony**  
**Public Health Committee**  
**HB 6275 An Act Concerning Certification of Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2015**  
**Monica George, CDA, RDH**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Monica George. I have been practicing as a registered dental hygienist in Southington and Farmington since I graduated in June 2014. Prior to that I had been a certified dental assistant for eight years. I also have a Bachelors in Science (biology) from CCSU. My volunteer service to the citizens of our state includes being a volunteer at GKAS and CT-MOM. I am here to testify against of House Bill 6275 an Act Concerning Certification of Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioners.

My experience as a dental assistant helped me to prepare for my career as a registered dental hygienist. I have maintained my certification as a dental assistant (12 continuing education credits per year) for the very purpose of expanding my knowledge both of techniques and materials and how best to use them in practice. I also learned in my hygiene curriculum to administer local anesthesia, a competency that was allowed to hygienists in Connecticut just a few years ago. With these competencies, I feel well qualified to treat patients to a high standard. With the passage of HB 6814, I as a hygienist, as well as any other trained and qualified dental assistant can broaden their scope of practice to better the dental team under the direct supervision of a dentist to capably treat any patient that comes into the office. I urge passage of HB 6814. However, passing HB 6275 lowers the standards of dental care in that individuals who are not properly trained to the standard of a dentist will be allowed to perform irreversible procedures. Many of my classmates are assisting or not working as a hygienist because they cannot find work as hygienists in Connecticut. Access to care has greatly improved since Medicaid fees increased. I would like to continue work as a hygienist with a dentist present.

I would like to thank-you for your time and sincerely hope that you will support House Bill 6814 and vote against HB 6275.

Respectfully Submitted,

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