

Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee
HB 6814 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary
Wednesday, March 11, 2015

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

This testimony is being submitted in favor of **HB 6814, AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries**. I have been a general practitioner for over 25 years and practice in Wallingford, Ct. I am retired from the Connecticut Army National Guard, having served as the State Dentist for over 20 years, advising the Adjutant General on Dental matters and providing necessary dental examinations to our service members. I also served for three years on active duty with the United States Air Force. I have seen and worked with Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries, and have experienced the smooth, skillful, efficient practice model.

I feel that this is the most efficient method to improve access to care and lower the cost of primary dental care. EFDAs have been practicing successfully in over 40 states. While in the military, I observed, trained and monitored the activities of dental assistants who had been through a short but intensive training course. With their help, dental patients were treated safely and efficiently.

The EFDAs have been practicing in the Army, Navy and Air Force for over 40 years, some able to fill and carve amalgam restorations, some exposing radiographic surveys and others making temporary crowns. This type of care is reversible and easily monitored by Dentists. Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries do not diagnose or treat any disease processes, but most important, they are the primary providers of preventative care to healthy individuals.

These EFDAs are capable of providing top-quality dental cleanings, fluoride treatments and dietary counseling to military members, their spouses and their children. The care is efficient, and it directed toward the correct level of care, that being preventative dentistry. They are able to provide excellent care under the supervision of Dentists. . Preventative care has been the most successful modality in medicine and dentistry in reducing costs and providing a lifetime of benefits. Children miss school, adults miss work. Missing teeth reduces self-esteem, and prevents people from getting white-collar jobs and from being in front of the public. Tooth pain is very debilitating. Yet, it is all preventable.

It is time for the legislature to modernize the way Dentistry is performed in Connecticut and allow Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries.

Sincerely,

David L. Fried, DMD

Wallingford, CT