

Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee
HB 6814 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary
Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Albert A. Natelli Jr., DDS

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Dr. Al Natelli and I reside in Southington, Connecticut. For the record let me say that I am also a part time volunteer instructor of dentistry at the University Of Connecticut School Of Dental Medicine and an advisory member to the Lincoln College Dental Assisting program. I have been practicing dentistry in Southington for over twenty years. My volunteer service to the citizens of our state includes but is not limited to the following: Candidate to represent the 81st District 2014, Southington Town Councilor from 2009 to 2011, and past Chairman of the Greater Southington Chamber of Commerce. Also, I work closely with our social Services Department here in Southington in treating local community members, either pro-bono (Southington's Pain Free Dental Days) or by reduced fees or by accepting Medicaid. In addition I have been involved with GKAS (Give Kids a Smile) and a volunteer with CT-MOM. I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 6814 An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries; but please permit me to note that my testimony here reflects my individual opinion and not the opinion or position of any entity

It is no secret that I supported in the past legislating the use of EFDA's here in our great state and I continue to support this today. Here are just a few of the reasons I support this: 1) The Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary is a model which exists in forty five states, the District of Columbia, the Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, and the U.S. military. The use of EFDAs has been shown to improve efficiencies in the delivery of dental care, while maintaining the quality of that care. I received my dental training from the Case Western Reserve University School of Dentistry and was introduced to this concept of delivery of care over 20 years ago. It has a proven track record of success. 2) Cost effective EFDA educational programs will be designed to efficiently utilize the existing workforce by building on current knowledge and skills. The proposed education/training programs could be completed in one year. EFDAs potentially in workforce within 2 years of bill's passage; it does not look like this will cost additional monies to the state to get this implemented. As a former Town Councilor and a current tax payer, I like this. 3) EFDAs are limited to providing only reversible clinical procedures under the supervision of a dentist, such as making and cementing temporary crowns, placing and carving fillings after the dentist has prepared the tooth and applying fluoride varnish to teeth. 4) The newly trained EFDA auxiliary will find new career choices never before offered, thus stimulating interest in this field. This is good for personal growth and development with-in the profession. It even can provide a hygienist the opportunity to receive a new skill set if so desired. 5) Dental assistants AND hygienists could become Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries, allowing them to expand the scope of services that they can provide, providing these critical team members with a new career ladder. 6) When employed properly makes the dental office more efficient for dentists that accept HUSKY patients (nearly 2,000), having an EFDA could allow them to see more patients. 6) Received a very favorable review from DPH in 2012 during its exhaustive scope review process.

We have a small state. We are about 55 miles north to south and 90 miles east to west. We are not the size of other states with Advanced Dental Practicing Hygienists, so why not put an end to the conversations and give citizens what they need. Please vote to support House Bill 6814 An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries out of committee and let the legislators know you all support a new career tract for both the dental assistants and hygienists under the supervision of the leader of the dental team. I would like to sincerely thank-you for your time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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