

Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee
HB 6814 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary
Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Margaret Drozdowski Maule, DMD, MBA

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Dr. Drozdowski Maule. I have been practicing dentistry since 1998 in the State of Connecticut both in private practice and public health settings. From 2005-2013, I was the Chief Dental Officer at Community Health Center, Inc., the largest FQHC in Connecticut, predominantly serving the Medicaid dental population. Currently I practice in a group private practice in West Hartford, CT. My volunteer service to the citizens of our state includes GKAS, CT-MOM, and I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 6814 An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries.

Throughout the nation, we have seen the scope of practice of several providers expand in efforts to improve access to care while providing safe and high quality patient care to all patients. Connecticut's neighboring states are among the 45 states that have all approved this scope change. This model of oral health delivery has been proven safe and effective in public health settings, armed forces, as well as private practices across the nation. In a public health setting, having assistants with expanded function capability will improve the efficiency of the entire dental team enabling the team to provide more services to a population with high dental needs. Connecticut has made impressive strides in access to care for publically insured children over the last 5 years. The underserved adult Medicaid population has not seen the same impressive increase in access to care. Improving the efficiency of all dental teams, including the FQHC's dental teams, has a positive impact on the care provided to all patients in our state.

The training model for EFDA's is cost effective and provides an opportunity for existing dental assistants and hygienists to have an expanded and more rewarding career path. In an every day clinical practice setting, the expanded function dental assistant would perform their duties under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. DPH has reviewed the impact of the of expanded function dental assistants and found it to be favorable.

I would like to sincerely thank-you for your time and am in hopes that you will support House Bill 6814.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Drozdowski Maule, DMD, MBA
342 North Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06117
(860) 233-0552
maggiedmaule@gmail.com