

**Legislative Testimony  
Public Health Committee  
HB 6814 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental  
Auxiliary  
March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Jeffrey Berkley, D.D.S.**

**Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health committee, my name is Jeffrey Berkley and I have been practicing dentistry for 28 years. I am an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon for 28 years, now in a single specialty group practice which consists of eight surgeons that practice in five offices throughout Connecticut. I have volunteered at each of the CT Mission of Mercy events, as well as numerous other charity programs including Give Kids a Smile, Doctors with a Heart, and as needed for people in my community who need oral surgery but can not afford care. The surgeons in our practice provide services to both children and adults through the CT Dental Health Partnership. I am Department Head of Dentistry at Midstate Medical Center and participate in the residency programs at both St. Raphael's Hospital and Yale New Haven Hospital. I am also the current President of the Connecticut State Dental Association, and today I am testifying on behalf of the CSDA and its nearly 2,400 member dentists, in support of Proposed House Bill 6814 An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries.**

**Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary is more than a concept. It is a model that actually exists in 45 states and is also used in the military, the Public Health Service and the Indian Health Service.**

**In some of those settings it has been shown to markedly increase efficiency. Because the EFDA practices reversible procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist there is a track record of no significant incidence of adverse events. The Connecticut**

**Department of Public Health reported favorably on this provider type in 2012.**

**The increased efficiency of a dental facility that utilizes an Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary should allow more patients to be treated. It would have an immediate impact on care for Husky and other patients in Connecticut. In contrast to Medicine, most providers in Dentistry are general practitioners (primary care providers) and therefore would be significantly aided by the skill-set of an EFDA.**

**As an added benefit, it might attract more people and more highly qualified people into the field by providing a career ladder. The EFDA program is available to both dental assistants and dental hygienists.**

**This proposal, backed by the CSDA, has been shown to be effective in making dental care more efficient and productive in the military and other settings. 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. Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries have a track record, proven safety and effectiveness, and potential to stabilize or lower the costs of care. The CSDA, and I personally, would be happy to make ourselves available to help answer any questions that would further this process. In closing, I would like to again thank the members of the Public Health committee for allowing me to submit this testimony and would urge you to support House Bill 6814.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jeffrey Berkley, D.D.S.**

**323 Main Street**

**West Haven**

**(203)937-7181**

**Jawdoctor@yahoo.com**