

**Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee**

HB 6814 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary

**March 11th, 2015
Jeffrey M. Shuster, D.D.S.**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Dr. Jeffrey M. Shuster. I have been practicing dentistry in Cromwell, Connecticut, for 37 years. As a member of the Connecticut State Dental Association's Council on Legislation, I am hereby submitting this written testimony **in support of House Bill 6814 An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and expanded Function Dental Auxiliary.**

This bill will modernize dental assisting in our state. Increased office efficiency via the utilization of Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries (EFDA) is currently employed in 44 states and the District of Columbia. In New England, the State of Connecticut is the lone holdout that does not embrace this idea, nor benefit from the vast untapped resource of readily available manpower, which is comprised of our current dental auxiliaries. The opportunity to become an EFDA and perform expanded function procedures would be open to both Assistants and Hygienists. Once we identify and increase the services that dental auxiliaries can legally perform in Connecticut, current auxiliaries will experience opportunity for growth, and new candidates will recognize career potential increasing the numbers entering into the dental field.

Taking into consideration all the positive aspects this bill contains, no one will benefit as greatly as our state residents, our patients, who will be able to enjoy greater availability of quality care for their oral health needs.

I would like to thank you for your time and hope that you will **SUPPORT HB 6814.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey M. Shuster, D.D.S.
32 East Ridge Court
Cheshire, CT 06410
860.635.3993
jmsdds@cox.net