

Legislative Testimony

Public Health Committee

HB 6814 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Jessica Corsaletti RDH

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Jessica Corsaletti and I have been a registered Dental Hygienist in Connecticut for over 4 years. I have volunteered at Connecticut's Mission of Mercy program and my current employer is a HUSKY/Medicaid provider. I am writing to testify in favor of House Bill 6814 An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries.

The Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary model is one which exists in 44 states in the U.S. **Connecticut is one of only 6 states which do not allow EFDAs!** Most dental assisting programs throughout the country and in Connecticut already teach many competencies which Connecticut's dental assistants are currently prohibited from performing. The passing of Obamacare has increased the amount of people on Husky thus increasing the need for dental providers and care. If HB 6814 were passed, dental assistants *as well as **dental hygienists*** would be allowed to expand the scope of services we provide and fill that growing need for care.

An Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary would work under the supervision of a licensed dentist, and perform functions as per regulations set forth in the state dental practice act. The EFDA educational model is cost effective, and the proposed training program could be completed within one year. This means that EFDAs could potentially be working to help provide dental care within two years of the passage of HB6814.

When I was in school for Dental Hygiene we were asked to do research on the proposed Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner and state our position. Through my research, I determined that although it will help fill a need to the public that needs dental services, it's not realistic in terms of who would choose to become one. If I had the funds and time to go to school for the length of required for an ADHP, I would become an actual Dentist instead. It is for this reason I think the EFDA is more realistic all across the board.

I completely support any legislation which will allow Connecticut to incorporate Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries and I urge the members of the Public Health Committee to support House Bill 6814 as well.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Corsaletti RDH

Kensington, CT