

**Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee**

HB 6814 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary

**Wednesday, March 11, 2015
William Nash, D.M.D.**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Dr. William Nash. I have been practicing dentistry in Fairfield for 37 years. My volunteer service to the citizens of our state includes Give Kids A Smile and Connecticut Mission of Mercy, and I am a HUSKY/Medicaid provider. I also currently serve at the President Elect of the Connecticut State Dental Association. My testimony today is provided in favor of House Bill 6814 An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries.

In its variety of forms, Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries, or EFDA's, have been functioning well in 45 other States, some for decades. EFDAs are proven to provide more efficient dental care with no compromise of quality of care or patient safety. In fact, our own Department of Public Health has reviewed and supported the concept of EFDAs in its report to the General Assembly in 2012.

The Expanded Functions Dental Auxiliary (EFDA) position will require little expense or effort from State Agencies since education programs already exist and are readily available. The first EFDAs can be in place in two years, allowing patients, both private and Husky/Medicaid, to be treated with greater efficiency in dental offices and safety net facilities.

Please support HB 6814, as it will enhance efficiencies within the dental office.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Submitted,

William C. Nash, D.M.D.

2157 Mill Plain Rd.

Fairfield, CT 06824