

“Oral health for all”



February 16, 2016
Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford CT 06106

Re: House Bill 5133 AAC DENTAL ASSISTANTS

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am Mary Moran Boudreau, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Oral Health Initiative (COHI) which is the only non-profit in the state with the sole mission of Oral Health for All. I am here to address the changes to chapter 379 concerning the description of the services that dentists may delegate to dental assistants. COHI, in its concern for quality dental health care, supports clarifying the services of the dental services to perform them in a manner that is safe for the public.

Over 15 states have more specific description of services and definitions within dental assisting regulations. As each state allows a different list of services that can be performed by a dental assistant with variations on required education.

Using [Massachusetts](#) as a model, it requires all dental assistants to register and clearly states the requirements for dental assistants and descriptions of the Dental Assistant Trained on the Job (OJT), Formally Trained Dental Assistant (FTDA) and Certified Assistant (CA) including education, training, credentialing, allowable functions and levels of supervision. The addition of the Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the State Dental Commission established under section 20-103a, to adopt regulations and the State Dental Commission to publish on its Internet web site a list of the types of procedures that may be performed by a non-credentialed dental assistant and a credentialed dental assistant will increase the safety of the public through the description of services when tied to education, training, credentialing and supervision.

We recommend the state of Connecticut support legislation to spell out the services of the dental services to perform them in a manner that is safe for the public. I would appreciate consideration this bill. I am available for further discussion of this issue at your convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moran Boudreau
Executive Director

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