



State of Connecticut

African-American Affairs Commission

State Capitol

210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509

Hartford, CT 06106

860-240-8555

Dear Senator Gerratna, Representative Ritter, Senator Crisco, Representative Riley, Senator Markley and Representative Srinivasan and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Subira Gordon and I am the legislative analyst for the African American Affairs Commission. The mission of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut.

I am writing to provide testimony in support of RB 5459 AAC training in Cultural Competency for dental hygienists.

The State of Connecticut has made a commitment to health equity by adopting Cultural Linguistically Appropriate Standards a basis for addressing the needs of a diverse population. Many hospitals and health care organizations provide language services for individuals who are not English proficient as well as some level of cultural competence training as a way of complying with CLAS.

Cultural competence is defined having a defined set of values and principles, and demonstrate behaviors, attitudes, policies, and structures that enable them to work effectively cross-culturally. Several health professions already have a cultural competence requirement so the AAAC thinks that by expanding this training requirement to dental hygienists is a good next step. Every health

care worker should be aware of and understand the culture of the different populations that they serve as a way to provide excellent care.

Thank you for your time,

Subira Gordon
Legislative Analyst
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