



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE  
FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT  
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### Testimony in Support of

## **House Bill 5627: An Act Extending The Period A Child, Stepchild Or Other Dependent Child May Retain Dental Insurance Coverage Under A Parent's Health Insurance Policy**

**Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut**

**March 5, 2019**

Thank you, chairs and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 5627: An Act Extending The Period A Child, Stepchild Or Other Dependent Child May Retain Dental Insurance Coverage Under A Parent's Health Insurance Policy.

Allowing children to remain on their parents' dental insurance until age 26 is common-sense policy and we urge the committee to pass this bill.

At Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut, our mission is to serve as a catalyst that engages residents and communities in shaping a democratic health system that provides universal access to quality, affordable, equitable health care and promotes health in Connecticut. We believe that health care is a fundamental right and that our work is part of a broader movement for social and economic justice.

This proposal expanding young adults' dental coverage supports our vision – both in its expansion of this critical benefit to more young adults, but also in its acknowledgement of the importance of dental care.

Dental care is a critical component of overall health. We support the proposed bill because:

- More young adults will have access to critical dental coverage, especially low to middle income young people, who often go without dental insurance;
- Access to oral health care reduces serious and expensive conditions, helps keep adults at work, and reduces health care costs for all of us; and
- The proposed policy aligns with the current law for children retaining coverage on their parents' health insurance policy until age 26.

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