

Legislative Testimony Public Health Committee

Raised HB 5654 – An Act Allowing Dentists to Perform Certain Facial Therapies As Part of Their Dental Practice

Monday, February 11, 2019

Dear Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Jeffrey Berkley. I am an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon for 32 years, now in a single specialty group practice which consists of eight surgeons that practice in six offices throughout Connecticut. I am an attending in the Department of Dentistry at Yale, teaching in their residency program, and I am head of the Dental Department at Midstate Medical Center. I am also the past President of the Connecticut State Dental Association, and involved even at the national level on an ADA council. I have a special interest in scope of practice issues.

I am writing in support of HB 5654 as I have seen first hand that the current restriction negatively affects the resident training at UConn and Yale of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. The national standard of training includes cosmetic procedures and the board examination tests on this subject yet Connecticut is the only state in the country that blanket restricts cosmetic facial surgery dentists, even those who have received specific specialty training. I am not in favor of weekend courses as adequate training, but well trained individuals should be allowed to practice what they have learned for the public good.

The restrictions on Botox and fillers is especially troublesome, as APRNs and cosmetic surgery clinics are allowed to administer these reasonably safe and time reversible (they wear off) procedures but dentists are restricted. The literature has numerous articles on use of these techniques in cosmetic dentistry and TMJ treatment. It seems unreasonable to restrict what is the norm nationally with excellent efficacy and safety record.

For the reasons stated above, I urge you to support House Bill 5654.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Berkley, DDS

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