

**Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee
Proposed 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,

I am Dr. David L. Fried, President of the Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA). The CSDA is a statewide, not-for-profit professional membership organization. The CSDA represents over 1,900 licensed Connecticut dentists and has been the trusted leader and voice for oral healthcare in Connecticut since 1864.

I am writing in support of Proposed House Bill 5654 – An Act Allowing Dentists To Perform Certain Facial Therapies As Part of Their Dental Practice.

At least 20 state Dental Boards have addressed and allowed dentists to administer Botox and other dermal fillers for their patients. Currently, dentists in Connecticut are permitted to administer Botox as part of a dental treatment for temporal mandibular joint disorders and myofascial pain, but not for cosmetic concerns. Many dental patients complain of cosmetic issues, but their problem is not with their teeth. It is with the musculature around their lips. Botox offers a remedy which otherwise would require extensive surgical procedures. This bill would expand a dentist's scope and allow them to administer Botox and dermal fillers as part of their dental practice.

Several other health care providers, including physicians, physician assistants, and registered nurses are allowed to administer Botox. Nobody is more qualified to give injections in and around the face than a dentist. Dentists spend more time than any other health profession understanding head and neck anatomy and give more injections on a daily basis into these structures.

This bill would also establish standards and training methods for the performance of such facial therapies. The CSDA supports dentists who are adequately trained to administer Botox and dermal fillers.

Respectfully Submitted,

David L. Fried, DMD
President, Connecticut State Dental Association
203-605-4688