

Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee
HB 5654 - An Act Allowing Dentists To Perform Certain Facial Therapies As
Part Of Their Dental Practices
Monday, February 11, 2019

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

My name is John Parnoff and I have been practicing dentistry as a periodontal specialist in Connecticut for the last 24 years.

I am writing in support of **HB 5654 – An Act Allowing Dentists To Perform Certain Facial Therapies As Part Of Their Dental Practices.**

Connecticut is one of the few states that has lagged behind the rest of the nation in allowing dentists and dental specialists to administer Botox (botulinum toxin) and dermal fillers. Many states, including Massachusetts, Ohio, and Nevada, have allowed dentists, who have received training, to do so.

Currently, in Connecticut, Medical Doctors, Physician Assistants, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Registered Nurses have the ability to continue their education and become licensed to administer Botox. Typically, one thinks of Botox injections to be exclusively the purview of cosmetic and plastic surgeons to electively improve facial appearance and diminish the appearance of wrinkles. However, there are specific dental applications which would benefit the patient which are not being addressed because dentists and dental specialists are not able to administer Botox. Specifically, Botox has been shown to be an effective treatment for TMD, bruxism and clenching, facial pain including treating trigger points, angular cheilitis-drooping of corners of the mouth, gummy smiles, orthodontic relaps, reduce muscle hyperactivity for retention of removable prosthetics, temporalis and masseter muscle hypertrophy, TMJ disorders, myofascial pain, trismus, hypermobility to the teeth, hypertrophy of masseter and temporalis muscles, headaches associated with TMJ issues. Dermal fillers have specific dental uses in therapeutic treatment of the nasolabial folds, lips, mentalis fold, labiomental folds to treat gummy smiles, establishing esthetic dental lip lines and smile lines in aesthetic dental cases, treatment of angular cheilitis, eliminating “black triangles” between teeth post periodontal and or implant surgery, adding lip and peri-oral volume around the mouth for retention of removable prosthetics.

Dentists and dental specialists are well educated in their knowledge of facial anatomy and are, perhaps, most qualified to administer Botox due to our advanced training in the anatomy and physiology of the head and neck. Our education and training certainly

outweigh the qualifications of Physician Assistants, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Registered Nurses who can perform these injections in the State of Connecticut.

I respectfully request that we are granted the same rights and privileges as our colleagues in medicine when treating the head and neck with Botox (botulinum toxin) and dermal fillers.

Respectfully Submitted,

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