



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

February 11, 2019

**Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
860-509-7101**

House Bill #5654 - An Act Allowing Dentists to Perform Certain Facial Therapies as Part of Their Dental Practice

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is opposed to House Bill #5654, which would expand the scope of practice of dentists to include facial therapies, such as administering neurotoxins (e.g. Botox) and dermal fillers (e.g. Juvederm and Restylane), as part of their dental practice. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

DPH has not received a scope of practice request, pursuant to CGS Sec. 19a-16d, from any person or entity on behalf of dentists to change the dentistry scope of practice. The Legislature established the scope of practice statutes for DPH to convene a committee, including the requester and other licensed professions that may be impacted by the request, to review and deliberate the implications of such a request prior to the start of the legislative session.

The current scope of practice in CGS Sec. 20-123 limits dentistry to “the oral cavity, or the jaws, or the associated structures of the jaw.” Furthermore, this statute prohibits “the treatment of dermatologic diseases or disorders of the skin or face,” and “the performance of cosmetic surgery and other cosmetic procedures other than those related to the oral cavity, its contents, or the jaws.”

The Department is unable to support such a scope of practice change without the benefit of a formal scope of practice process that would include an assessment of any public health and safety risks that may be associated with this request.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.