

**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,

My name is Dr. Richard D. Riddle. I have been practicing dentistry in Southington, Connecticut since 1988. Before that I was a Dentist and Dental Director at a Public Health Clinic, Southwest Community Health Center, in Bridgeport, CT.

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.

I am sure you are trying to wade through the different arguments and determine which are simply turf wars, and which pertain to better patient/consumer care. I believe that this bill has certain aspects of both. I would like to inform you of the better patient/consumer care aspects to allowing Dentists to do these procedures. While many are concentrating on the cosmetic aspect of these aspects, the first point I would like to address is the pain management one. The practitioner best positioned to treat TMD's (Temporal Mandibular Disorders or "TMJ") is the Dentist. We have the best training to sift through the patients' concerns and determine if the pain is due to a TMD. One of the best tools in our tool box-Botox, is not available to us in the state of Connecticut. It is a great way to stop muscle spasms (a common occurrence and often the main source of the pain) in TMD patients. Many other states have this therapy available to their Dentists to better help their patients. It only makes sense to allow Dentists in this state to have it as an available therapy for their patients.

As to the use of dermal fillers, often a patient will undergo planned orthognathic surgery at the hands of an Oral Surgeon, only to have to have dermal fillers done as a secondary procedure elsewhere by an MD. This subjects the patient to extra visits, extra anesthesia risk in some cases, and often more cost due to having to have this done elsewhere as a second procedure. Additionally, there are times when a dermal filler will allow the lips to rest against dental work in a more pleasing manner. Once again, it only makes sense to allow Dentists to do this when properly trained, to benefit their patients.

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

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