

Legislative Testimony  
Public Health Committee

**Proposed H.B. No. 5654      Session Year 2019**

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**AN ACT ALLOWING DENTISTS TO PERFORM CERTAIN FACIAL THERAPIES AS PART OF THEIR DENTAL PRACTICE.**

To allow dentists to perform certain facial therapies as part of their dental practice.

Monday, February 11, 2019

Daniel R. Saunders, DMD

Dear members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Daniel R. Saunders. I have been practicing Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in my home state of Connecticut for 18 years. I am president of the Connecticut Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (CSOMS). On behalf of myself, I am writing to support the proposed H.B. No. 5644 – An act allowing dentists to perform certain facial therapies as part of their dental practice.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) are surgically and medically trained dental specialists who treat dental and medical conditions, defects, injuries and esthetic aspects of the mouth, teeth, jaws, neck and face. OMSs have extensive surgical training and experience, which focuses almost completely on the bone, skin and muscle of the face, mouth and jaws. Connecticut legislation on specific restrictions of cosmetic procedures based on turf-wars is embarrassing and does affect recruitment of OMS and adversely affects our training programs.

Currently, under law dentists are allowed to use Botox for treatment of TMD. There are several OMS in Connecticut who routinely perform cosmetic procedures under their medical license. As a single degree oral and maxillofacial surgeon, I support the Bill.

Botox and dermal fillers are currently being used by our neighboring states safely and our expanded definition of dentistry will allow our dentist to compete, ultimately lowering costs. My support for the current bill if not passed this year will continue into the future as I support the Connecticut dentists who have proper training to perform such procedures.

I urge you to support HB No. 5654. I appreciate the consideration by the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel R. Saunders, DMD

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