

Legislative Testimony  
Public Health Committee

**HB 7303** - An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Department of Public Health Regarding Dental Practitioners

**HB 7281** - An Act Concerning the Practice of Dental Therapy By Licensed Dental Hygienists

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

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

My name is Dr. Annemarie DeLessio- Matta and I have been practicing pediatric dentistry in Connecticut for 22 years. I am a graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine and completed residencies at Brigham and Women's Hospital and St. Barnabas Hospital. I've been a Husky provider for all of my practicing years and participate in numerous charities including Give Kids a Smile. I am currently the President of the Dental Society of Greater Waterbury.

I am writing in opposition to **House Bill 7281** – An Act Concerning the Practice of Dental Therapy By Licensed Dental Hygienists and in support of **House Bill 7303** - An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Department of Public Health Regarding Dental Practitioners with **modifications to section 4** which addresses **dental therapy**. Because I am concerned about access to care and the quality of care that children in CT receive. I support paragraph 2: section 4 with these modifications:

- Paragraph (4)(b)(1) – I oppose the requirement of a dental hygiene license; we support a basic CODA model. **(This model will allow students to become Dental Therapists faster and cheaper. The model proposed in HB 7281 would be extremely expensive causing students to incur large debt that their salary could not support, especially in CT)**
- Paragraph (4) - I support dental therapists limited to public health settings such as community centers and school based health centers **because these populations are the most at risk and could be served faster utilizing the CODA model.**
- Paragraph (4) (b) (4) (a) – I support a pathway to general supervision prior to dental therapist entering into a collaborative agreement with a licensed dentist, however, we believe the appropriate levels of clinical training should be 2 years or 2,500 hours of clinical training under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. **(Once again this is more economical for prospective students)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Annemarie DeLessio-Matta DMD  
Woodbury,CT