

Good Morning,

I write to you in support of HB 7281 and HB 7303 referencing the practice of dental therapy by licensed dental hygienists. In delivering dental hygiene services in a public health facility, educational, preventive and therapeutic services are provided to the public seeking such services. The dental hygienist generally is the first practitioner to see the patient recording vitals and reviews the medical history prior to treatment. Collaboration exists with the dentist, primary care and specialists as a part of delivering services to ensure patient safety. Often times education is delivered based on the recommendations of those healthcare providers and patients are appreciative. You have outlined this sort of collaboration in both Dental Therapist bills.

Implementing the dental therapist in Connecticut grants choices for patients seeking services through a public health facilities. It is unfortunate this population also includes many in the middle-class citizens that at one time had a dental home and now has none. The number of individuals in the population continues to increase. The use of the Dental Therapist implemented in Minnesota model is very effective in increasing the delivery of services to the public. As healthcare providers, it is our responsibility to deliver comprehensive services within our scope and it is the right of the public to have the opportunity to receive such services. Adding the Dental Therapist to the team of healthcare providers will fill the unmet needs patients in public health are experiencing.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

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