

Legislative Testimony
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
HB 5249 An Act Concerning Dental Insurance Coverage for Children,
Stepchildren, and Other Dependent Children
HB 5253 An Act Concerning Dental and Vision Insurance Coverage for Children,
Stepchildren, and Other Dependent Children
SB 369 An Act Concerning Dental and Vision Insurance Coverage for Children,
Stepchildren and Other Dependent Children
March 8, 2020

Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon and the Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

My name is Dr. Bethaney Brenner and I have been practicing in Burlington, Connecticut for over 40 years now. I am currently Treasurer for the Connecticut State Dental Association and have been a part of dental education on and off for many years. I am writing in support of proposed legislation HB 5249, HB 5253, and SB 369. There are so many young adults that cannot get entry level jobs with dental insurance or insurance that they can afford, and I find that as they avoid dental care due to cost, they get into bad situations costing far more. I practice in a well water community, which means basically no fluoride in the drinking water. Therefore, allowing this age group to remain on their parent's dental insurance would be a simple act of kindness and would be no cost to the Department of Public Health.

It has been proven over and over that poor dental health leads to many other health issues, ie: heart diseases, gum disease, diabetes, strokes and even low weight babies at birth. Poor oral health leads to ER visits, prescriptions, and extra costs to hospital and staff personnel. These costs can be avoided or diminished by allowing dental coverage for this population of young adults. And now more than ever with the Coronavirus, Covid19, this would help to stop the spread since it is in the saliva of the infected patient.

In addition, I would like to raise my concerns over ERISA notification. We cannot tell enough about a person's insurance when it is clearly NOT on the insurance card. This means possible misinformation to the patient. Identifying the type of plan can significantly avoid problems. It is impossible to contact insurance companies after hours and yet, many of us see patients in the evenings because they cannot get time off from work during the day. And this is exactly the group that seeks those hours. Wouldn't you like to have that clarity on your own insurance cards? Most adults would too.

I urge you to support this legislation and vote yes on HB 5249, HB 5253, and SB 369.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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