

Ellen Adler, RDH
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March 12, 2021

Dear Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, Senator Somers, Representative Petit, Senator Lesser, Representative Wood, Senator Hwang and Representative Pavalock-D'Amato, and Members of the Public Health, and Insurance and Real Estate Committees,

The testimony I am writing you is in **support of SB 1022** with an amendment to include dental hygienists in telehealth along with the many other health professionals. I also ask you to **support HB 5596** regarding telehealth. As a dental hygienist practicing 40 years and currently serving as Chair of ADHA Connecticut Council of Regulation and Practice, I feel dental hygienists are the preventive specialists in dentistry and should be included in SB 1022. Allowing our profession to deliver care via telehealth is so very important in providing dental care and increase access to oral health care to the citizens in Connecticut.

78% of patients in a 2019 survey supported teledentistry. The dental hygienist could triage patients via teledentistry along with the dentist which would reduce fees, reduce wait times to be seen and certainly improve access to care! I also feel teledentistry should and would be used beyond the pandemic as it is essential to health and care of our citizens.

Thank you and I hope I can count on your support of SB 1022 with amendment and HB 5596.

Respectfully,

Ellen W. Adler, RDH

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Chair Council of Regulation and Practice
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