

Cherell Crooms, RDH
64 Water Street
South Glastonbury, CT 06073

March 12, 2021

SUPPORT: SB 1022—An Act Concerning Telehealth
SUPPORT: HB 5596—Telehealth

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,

My name is Cherell Crooms and I am a registered voter in Glastonbury Ct. I am here today in my role as a mother, practicing dental hygienist and trustee of the Northeastern Dental Hygienists' Association to provide testimony supporting the addition of a dental hygienist to the list of Telehealth providers.

Being a parent in these challenging times, I can appreciate the importance and need for safe health care that allows parents to connect with healthcare providers to triage, evaluate and care for their children in the event of a concern or emergency. As a recent graduate and newly practicing dental hygienist, I have made it my mission to educate, care and treat my community. I welcome the opportunity to lend my services and utilize my knowledge to support and provide remote healthcare to those in need.

According to "An Act Concerning Telehealth", Telehealth is the act of providing care within the scope of practice in accordance with the care providers profession. In the practice act, Chapter 379a Dental hygienist under sec. 20-1261 (a) it states "The "practice of dental hygiene" means the performance of educational, preventive and therapeutic services. These services include dental hygiene examinations, charting of oral conditions, dental hygiene assessment, treatment planning and evaluation. I believe that qualifies us as a telehealth provider, and that an addendum of our profession should be made under the list of approved providers.

If you have any further questions about this legislation, please feel free to contact me. I respectfully request a favorable committee report regarding SB 1022 and HB 5596.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Cherell Crooms, RDH
Trustee, Northeastern Connecticut
American Dental Hygienists' Association, Connecticut