



Traverse Health Clinic

Health Care for People in Need

Good morning Chairwoman Haines and members of the committee.

My name is Rene Louchart and I am affiliated with the Traverse Health Clinic as the Dental Health Director. I am writing today in support of the substitute form of House Bill 4718 for a second pair of hands for the Registered Dental Hygienist.

It would be very helpful to our hygienist to have a second pair of hands for suction retraction and maintaining a dry field as she provides care to our patients. Currently, we utilize another registered dental hygienist when she is available. This Bill would allow us to serve more people more efficiently.

The Traverse Health Clinic is a non-profit health clinic that provides access to healthcare to over 2,500 adults from three counties in northwest Lower Michigan. We work closely with our medical staff and volunteers to ensure the patient receives the best comprehensive medical and oral health care possible. Our collaboration with local dentists has been very helpful to our community and beneficial to our population in need.

The Traverse Health Clinic has had its' PA 161 Program for one year and have been creative as we tackle the access to care problems that face many in our community. PA 161 authorizes us to utilize the skills of the hygienist in ways not before possible and the result is more care for more citizens. This means fewer patients seeking acute care due to lack of preventive care. In these successful collaborative programs the addition of an assistant would greatly aid our efficiency and improve quality care.

I support this Bill. I ask you to vote YES and send this Bill to the full House. We are eager to continue to move forward as we provide access to oral health care.

Best Regards,

Rene Louchart, R.D.H., B.S.

Dental Health Director

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