



March 22, 2012

Written Testimony for Pending Substitution for HB 4718

Good Morning members of the House Health Policy Committee, and Chair Haines.

My name is Dr. Mona Rizk Ibrahim, Director of Pediatric Oral Health for Detroit Health and Wellness Promotion and I am here in support of the pending substitution for HB 4718 for a second pair of hands for the RDH.

This bill authorizes the registered dental hygienist the ability to utilize a "second pair of hands" if assigned by the supervising dentist. I am the supervising dentist of two PA161 hygienists for our Seal! Detroit School-Linked and School-Based Dental Sealant Program.

Our PA 161s receive extensive training in the Dental Home for the proper placement of dental sealants. During my quality assurance visits observing the treatment protocol of the PA161 hygienists in the field, I have expert knowledge of the valuable treatment they provide for the "at-risk children" in the city of Detroit. Being able to utilize a second pair of hands would greatly enhance the ability of the PA161 RDH to provide a more effective and efficient treatment for the public.

Currently, my hygienists refer children to the Dental Home that experience difficulty during treatment rather than to compromise the quality of care. This is one of my quality assurance standards and allows for the safe delivery of treatment. There are times, however when one of the PA161s will assist the other during treatment. This greatly reduces the number of children that can benefit from this very essential preventive service. In spite of our best efforts, there is still the need for some retreatment of sealants placed on children in the schools. When the children receive retreatment at the Dental Home, there is the availability for the PA161 RDHs to have assistance, therefore this bill is also vital to address the issue of assigning a "second pair of hands" in the private dental office. It is a win-win option that dentists should embrace.

Thank you to the House Health Policy Committee members and Chair Haines. Please support the pending substitute for HB 4718 with a yes vote and send it to the full house for a full vote.

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