

## David Mead

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**From:** Suzanne Tanis <suzannetanis@continuingconnections.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2013 9:21 PM  
**To:** Rep. Gail Haines (District 43)  
**Cc:** David Mead  
**Subject:** House Bill 4865 Testimony 10-15-2013

October 14, 2013

The Honorable Gail Haines  
State Representative  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Re: House Bill 4865 Health Policy Committee Testimony October 15, 2013

Dear Chairwoman Haines:

It was brought to my attention that on Tuesday October 15, 2013 the House Policy Committee will be hearing testimony for House Bill 4865. As a licensed dental hygienist in the state of Michigan I have some serious concerns with the current wording of the bill as it pertains to access to care for the elderly and adults with special needs. If the bill is passed in its current state access to care will be amputated and the above mentioned population will suffer the consequences of this decision.

Please remember that there are reasons why certain populations in Michigan find it difficult or impossible to receive much needed dental care. Those reasons include: physical inability to travel, mental inability to travel, and financial inability to pay for comprehensive services at a private practice setting.

If people could be seen in a private practice setting they would be. By mandating a memorandum of agreement for these programs the bill is shutting down any care opportunities that this population would receive in the future. There aren't any dental clinics for the elderly or adults with special needs in Michigan who would sign an MOA like there are for children. And if there were, the patients would be unable to get care there for the above mentioned reasons (inability to travel, financial limitations). Programs that care for this population are NOT like private practices and should not be treated as such.

It is a wonderful dream to have comprehensive dental care for EVERYONE. But until that is figured out I implore you to not extinguish the steps forward that have been made already.

**Please consider exempting any mobile dental practice providing care to the elderly and adults with special needs and any PA161 program from this bill.**

Thank you,

Suzanne S. Tanis, RDH, BS

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