

Testimony to Senate Health Policy Committee
June 13, 2012 HB 4718

MICHIGAN

DENTAL

HYGIENISTS'

ASSOCIATION

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Good Morning Senator Marleau and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bonnie Nothoff. I am a registered dental hygienist of 28 years and I am here today in support of HB 4718 in its' substitute form authorizing the RDH to utilize a "2nd pair of hands."

The importance of the RDH having that 2nd pair of hands is immeasurable in terms of patient safety, efficiency and efficacy. This came to light after the 93rd legislature passed PA 161, 2005 authorizing the hygienist to provide preventive oral health care in underserved populations. The programs initiated have been very successful and are constantly growing. While in remote locations we have been, under the law, forced to use one another for this second pair of hands, which is a poor distribution of professional talent. In an office, if the DDS is away, again, this prohibits efficiency.

I have attached a one year study of collaborative practices showing figures of accomplishments to stress how many can be affected positively by passage of HB 4718.

There is no increase in scope for the RDH or the assistant.

Finally, the impetus behind HB 4718 is:

1. It benefits all citizens by greatly diminishing costs.
2. It adds jobs and value to collaborative practice
3. 2nd pair of hands provides more quality care.
4. All agree a second pair of hands is needed by the RDH
5. Financially no cost to the state of Michigan

Please vote yes and thank you for your attention to prevention.

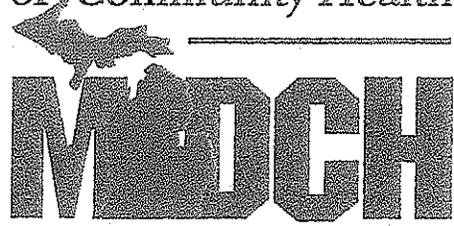
Sincerely,

Bonnie Nothoff RDH

Bonnie Nothoff RDH

Director, Governmental Affairs

Michigan Department
of Community Health



ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

**PA 161: Public Dental Prevention Program
2011 Annual Report
October 2010- September 2011**

Results: October 1, 2010- September 30, 2011
44 out of 53 programs reported data sometime in the 12 month period
8 programs reported no activity for the 12 month period
1 program sent no reports (Expired 10-23-11)
4 programs have not submitted any data for the final quarter
2995 adults screened
19,668 children screened
3819 adult prophys
18,852 child prophys
4597 children received sealants
14,160 sealants placed
25,884 fluoride varnish applications
11,112 other fluoride applications
8448 referred for dental treatment
1745 reported receiving treatment