

Legislative Testimony
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
HB 6589 An Act Concerning Third-Party Access to Participating Dental Provider
Contracts
3/3/2021

Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Wood, and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

My name is Dr. Jeffrey Berkley. I have been practicing dentistry in Connecticut since 1987. My Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery practice has six offices staffed by seven doctors providing care to patients throughout the state. I am writing in support of proposed HB 6589 – An Act Concerning Third-Party Access to Participating Dental Provider Contracts. This bill would specify the circumstances in which a health carrier may enter into a contract with a third party for the purpose of providing the third party with access to a participating dental provider contract.

The relationship of trust between a patient and their provider can become unnecessarily strained when an insurance based practice such as mine is not aware that our provider contract has been leased to another company. Our patients expect a fair representation of the portion of their bill they will be expected to pay. This has become increasingly difficult when insurance companies have multiple plans by different names all with different rules and benefits. It becomes virtually impossible when we as providers are not even aware what insurances we are and are not “in” because of the practice of leasing participation networks without our knowledge or consent. This has resulted in claim rejections for not preauthorizing cases to companies we did not even know about, and has created hard feelings between patient and staff when too much or too little is collected for a procedure. It has contributed to ever increasing administrative burden to have to call for benefits on virtually every case. Unfortunately patients often don’t have a clue what their coverage is and rely on us to find it out. Simplifying and adding transparency would help this issue.

I urge you to support HB 6589.

Respectfully Submitted,

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