

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

March 8, 2021

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

My name is Dr. Jonathan Goldberg and I have been practicing dentistry in Connecticut for 35 years. I am a solo practitioner and run my own family practice in Hamden. For many years, being a participating provider with dental insurance companies (in network) was a straightforward venture. However, with each passing year it seems the insurance companies find increasing ways to benefit themselves at the expense of their members and providers. An example of this is network leasing. In short, network leasing allows insurance companies to transfer the rights to a dentist's contract to another insurance company without seeking the dentist's knowledge or consent. This always impacts insurance benefits available to patients. As a result dentists are not able to adequately advise patients on financial planning regarding dental services, eroding the patient/dentist relationship. Sadly, this scenario has repeatedly played out in my office, as neither myself or my patients are made aware of these changes in advance and patients are often left with increased unexpected expenses.

The Connecticut State Dental Association is advocating for network leasing laws that would expand transparency and provide an opportunity for dentists to accept or refuse these contracts, enforcing basic fairness for both patients and dentists. Therefore, 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. Nearly 20 states already have laws that generally require insurance companies to inform health care providers of network leasing activities.

I urge you to support HB 6589.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Goldberg, DMD  
4133 Whitney Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06518  
203-230-2265