

Legislative Testimony
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
HB 6589: An Act Concerning Third-Party Access to Participating Dental Provider
Contracts
March 18, 2021

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

My name is Dr. Al Natelli and I have been practicing dentistry in Connecticut for over 25 years. In addition, for the record, I am the Past President of the Connecticut State Dental Association, a part time volunteer instructor of dentistry at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, was an advisory member to the Lincoln College Dental Assisting program, a former Town Councilor in the Town of Southington, and former candidate for State Representative in the 81st District.

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. Finally, please note that my testimony here reflects my individual opinion and not the opinion or position of any entity, including that of my employer and the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine.

Did you know, insurance companies can pawn dentists off to a different insurance network without the dentist's knowledge or consent, significantly impacting the insurance benefits available to their patients? I honestly was not aware this was going on until it happened to me and my colleagues. I don't think it's fair that a company is allowed to "lease" me without my knowledge.

With the problem presented I offer you a solution, I am advocating for network leasing laws that would expand transparency and provide an opportunity for dentists to accept or refuse these contracts, enforcing basic fairness while reducing occurrences of unexpected bills following a procedure. One third of states currently employ such legislation.

In conclusion, my colleagues and I are not commodities for sale or lease. We are professionals and should be treated as such. Thus, I urge you to support HB 6589 and eliminate the leasing of me and my colleagues. Feel free to reach out to me if you have additional questions or concerns regarding this or any other issue you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Natelli DDS
Southington, Ct
860-628-0385