



Connecticut State Dental Association

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Testimony for Listening Session Insurance and Real Estate Committee July 20, 2020 LCO 3614 An Act Concerning Telehealth

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

My name is Dr. Tam Le, and I am the President of the Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA), representing about 1,900 member dentists. I am writing in support of increasing access to telehealth services through LCO 3614 – An Act Concerning Telehealth.

We are in unprecedented and extraordinary times. The CSDA was among the first health care provider groups in our state to recommend postponement of elective procedures and treat only urgent and emergency cases. This contributed to slowing community spread of the virus. Now that dental offices are back to resuming elective procedures, there continue to be circumstances where telehealth services can be used to support dental care.

There are valuable benefits to telehealth, specifically teledentistry services. When practiced judiciously and effectively, it allows dentists to provide services to many patients who may not otherwise have such an opportunity to receive care. This mode of oral healthcare delivery is an important way to ensure access to care during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.

Should we have a new wave of COVID-19 come back into Connecticut and healthcare providers are urged to postpone elective procedures again, it is essential that dentists and their patients have the ability to determine when teledentistry vs a clinical visit is appropriate.

Oral health is an important part of overall health and as such, the CSDA supports increasing access to telehealth services by including licensed dentists to the list of telehealth providers and extending the current telehealth policy changes made by the Governor to June 30, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Kristina Diamond, CSDA's Government Relations Director, at 860-335-1525 should you need any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

Tam Le, DMD