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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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To: Christopher Grovich, State Board of Dentistry

From: Renee Rapp RDH
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Hello I am a registered dental hygienist who has been working for just over a year now in a small rural practice. I currently hold an associate, 2 years degree and I am enrolled through Penn College for my bachelors degree which will give me a four year degree. I love my job, I love hygiene and I think it is a great career. However I am finding now that there are not many options for a dental hygienist besides working under a dentist in a private practice. I feel that the opportunities available for hygienists could very well benefit our state of Pennsylvania. In my local area of Western Pennsylvania there is a shortage of dentists and the dentists that are here are overworked because there is just to many people needing oral health care and not enough people to provide it. By proposing laws such as local anesthesia and dental hygiene practitioner this can help take the workload off of the already beat down dentist. Hygiene is a great career, and I want to pursue further education in hygiene and make a difference here in Pennsylvania's oral health. I am extremely interested in completing the dental hygiene practitioner and local anesthesia education requirements! I do not want to leave the lovely state of Pennsylvania but I want a full career in hygiene and to me that means being the best I can be, completing my degree as a dental hygiene practitioner. California and Colorado have already passed laws allowing these duties to be performed by a dental hygienist without the supervision of a dentist, so why is Pennsylvania sitting behind. We need to get up and get moving and the first step in the right direction is improving the oral health of our communities and preventing dental decay and disease, by doing this we need more oral health care providers and when you broaden the hygienists career and regulations then this can be achieved! Please review the laws and take into the consideration the lives of all us dental hygienists here in Pennsylvania, we want to help but first we need your help! Thank you, Renee Rapp RDH

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