

#2720

September 15, 2008

Joni Brickner, RDH, B.S.  
29 Hickorytown Road  
Carlisle, PA 17015

Christopher Grovich, Esq.  
State Board of Dentistry  
P.O. Box 2649  
Harrisburg, PA 17015-2649

RECEIVED

SEP 15 REC'D

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Grovich:

As a dental hygienist, who has recently completed a Bachelor's degree program in dental hygiene that included extensive coursework on special needs populations, I am writing to express my support for the regulatory changes that will impact the practice of dental hygiene in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The elderly and special needs populations in Pennsylvania are two of the most vulnerable to the ravages of untreated disease of the supporting structures. These changes to the Practice Act will help make significant improvements in the ability to access preventive dental care for the elderly and those with physical and/or mental challenges.

As a member of the Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists Association, I join with them in recommending revisions in the wording concerning supervision in private practice to: "level of supervision will be determined by the dentist and the RDH after review of the patient's medical and dental history" and inclusion of free health clinics like Community Volunteers in Medicine along with Federally Qualified Health Center LOOK-A-ALIKES and non-profit clinics as sites for Public Dental Hygiene Practitioners to practice.

As a member of the dental community I wanted to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for these positive changes that will improve access to dental care in the coming years for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely

Joni Brickner, RDH, B.S.