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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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September 17, 2008

Christopher Grovich, Esq.
State Board of Dentistry
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Mr. Grovich:

I am a dental hygienist in Lancaster County and a past president of the Lancaster County Dental Hygienists' Association. There is such a need for dental care in Pennsylvania. I work full-time at a federally qualified health center in Lancaster County and volunteer once a month at a free dental clinic. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania needs to improve the access to dental care of its citizens. Allowing dental hygienists to practice with fewer restrictions will help with access to care.

I support the changes in the Dental Hygiene regulations as listed:

- Administration of local anesthesia by RDH with 30 hours of course work
- Creation of Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner, requiring certification
- Changes in supervision: dentist and RDH decide on supervision
- Allow for three hours of continuing education in communication skills for RDHs

I also recommend revising the wording for supervision of RDH in private practice to: "level of supervision will be determined by the dentist and the RDH after review of the medical and dental history." I recommend the inclusion of free clinics as a site for Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioners to practice.

Thank you for your continued support of dental care for the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Very sincerely yours,

Diane R. Creme, RDH, BS