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Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2008 10:29 AM
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

September 25, 2008

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

To whom it may concern:

As a current dental hygiene student, I am very much concerned with the legislation changes that are being proposed regarding Dental Hygiene scope of practice. I am writing this letter to demonstrate my support for the following changes to the current regulations.

1. Provision to allow administration of local anesthesia by registered Dental Hygienists with 30 hr. course
2. Creation of a Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner
3. Change in Supervision: dentist and RDH decide supervision needed
4. Change from direct to general supervision of radiographs
5. Allowing for three house of continuing education in communication skills for Registered Dental Hygienists.

I would like to stress the importance of the change in supervision to a level determined by the Registered Dental Hygienist and Dentist after review of the patients' medical and dental history.

It is important to consider the affect the above changes would have in the community in reference to both oral and overall health. As medical professionals, access of care to the general community is paramount and should be considered as the primary concern. The changes above would expand our scope of practice, and allow us to bring care to people with great need but limited access. Inclusion of free health clinics and non-profit clinics would open the doors to these people who are currently suffering from, and living with conditions that could be rectified with relative ease.

Although the potential growth and expansion of the career that I have chosen are very exciting to me, it is the opportunity to provide care for and benefit my community that drives me to reach my full potential. I hope that this state of mind will be taken to heart by all, so that it can create the change necessary for our profession to meet this potential state wide.

Sincerely,

Catherine Conklin