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From: jojokristo@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2008 3:00 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Comments to State Board of Dentistry regarding Proposed Regulations for the Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice
Attachments: Letter to State Board of Dentistry regarding proposed regulations for the DH Scope of Practice.doc

To the members of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

I am forwarding a copy of the letter I wrote to Mr. Christopher Grovich of the State Board of Dentistry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Antonia T. Ambrosino, RDH, BS

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1636 King James Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
September 25, 2008

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Grovich,

I am writing in support of the currently proposed regulations for the dental hygiene scope of practice.

In 2000, the Surgeon General of the United States, C. Everett Koop said "You are not healthy without good oral health". How very true these words are. In my 36 years of actively practicing dental hygiene, I have seen dental disease affect the quality of patients' lives. It is my opinion that the new regulations set forth by the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry are a necessary step forward toward addressing access to care and the unmet oral health needs of underserved populations in Pennsylvania. I applaud the Board for their thoughtful and progressive insights and actions. The support for the Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner, as well as, the regulations for changes in direct and general supervision of dental hygiene services will positively influence access to care issues. I believe that health care providers have the ability to change perceptions on many levels, and to collaboratively implement interventions that can improve oral health and impact the quality of the lives of Pennsylvanians.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work in a wide variety of practice setting including private practice, education and public health. I am a 1973 graduate of the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Dental Medicine's Dental Hygiene Program. My education, work experience, and professional association involvement has affirmed to me the fact that dental hygienists have always been at the forefront of health promotion and disease prevention and that dental hygienists as a whole are a well educated, responsible and ethical group of professional health care providers capable of administering local anesthesia responsibly and with the patient's well being as their highest priority. Currently, 39 states and the District of Columbia allow dental hygienists to administer local anesthesia. I applaud Pennsylvania for moving forward with this long awaited regulation change. I support the new legislation for the delivery of local anesthesia within the framework of the proposed guidelines.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonia T. Ambrosino, RDH, BS