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From: Stephen Ratko [pengoch_ratko@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2008 3:49 PM
To: IRRC

Dental Hygienist Regulations;

The time for the state of Pennsylvania to recognize the intelligence, qualifications, abilities, and value of dental hygienists is long overdue. Pennsylvania has gone from one of the most progressive states in the union when I received my license to practice in 1969 to one of the most restrictive. We are in the minority when it comes to allowing a dental hygienist to fully utilize her education and her skills. Every state west of the Mississippi River allows dental hygienist to administer local anesthesia. In the mid 1970's hygienists in Pennsylvania were taught to do this in most dental hygiene programs. Through lobbying effort we have been banned from utilizing our knowledge to the detriment of underserved populations in the state.

It is time for dental hygienists to be allowed to practice to the full level of our abilities as we do in the more progressive states of New England, New York and the Western states. Why should we in Pennsylvania be forced to lag behind like the restrictive states of Texas and Alabama Please give us the ability to improve the quality of dental care by signing off on the proposed changes before the legislature.

Thank you,

Carol M. Ratko, R.D.H.; B.S.

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