RE: PHDHP Rulemaking 16A-4633 (Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner Sites) State Board of Dentistry Regulatory Counsel Department of State P.O. Box 69523 Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523



March 29, 2019

## Counsel:

This letter is in support the PHDHP rulemaking 16A-4633 (Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner Sites). I would like to share my personal reasons for my support to the purposed expansion.

Many times I have encountered families who are in desperate need of dental services and are unable to seek out the services for multiple reasons, transportation, Single parents who are bound to work multiple jobs, parents unable to take time from work to attend appointments, etc.... Allowing the PHDHP to meet the needs of the underserved population by expanding site locations where services can be rendered allows breaking the barriers of care this population suffers largely from especially in rural areas where public transportation and low socioeconomic status are prevalent

Meeting this population needs means we need to incorporate additional locations where the PHDHP can Practice as well as travel to where the needs lie. Such as the purposed expansion sites listed in the Rulemaking 16A-4633. Patient homes, Medical Provider offices, Daycares, HeadStart organizations, etc....this will allow oral health services to be rendered to those in need and increase oral health awareness and outcomes.

I had the opportunity to work with in a School Based Healthcare center that included dental services the success of this program grew each year. Children in this district had the opportunity to receive routine dental exams, cleanings, X-rays, fluoride treatments, oral health education as well as restorative services. More and more families signed up with each year and the children seen the previous year's oral health improved. The children who were in desperate need of dental treatment received it and were attached to dental homes. The outcomes were favorable for all involved, parents didn't miss work, children didn't miss school, dentist gained new patients and most importantly oral health overall improved.

Granting the expansion of locations allows for the same services and outcomes to every underserved patient in need.

Sincerely.