



February 16, 2012

To: Senate Health and Human Services Committee
From: New Hampshire Oral Health Coalition

Re: SB 284 - 2012, establishing pilot projects to improve access to oral health care.

Consistent with our mission, the New Hampshire Oral Health Coalition supports the intent of SB 284-2012 to increase access to oral health services for New Hampshire residents.

The NHOHC is comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders in oral health. Although not all of our members agree with the specific proposal identified in SB 284, as per our Oral Health Plan strategies, the majority of our members support the consideration of the NH Legislature to explore and pilot-test best-practice models of workforce alternatives.

We understand that within our membership, the NH Dental Society and the NH Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, consistent with their national associations, do not support this legislation and will be speaking to their own positions. We respect their difference of opinion and agree with them that workforce is only one consideration for increased access.

We find this bill consistent with our Coalition mission, principles and objectives. Specifically, we support this bill as it relates to the following

- Exploration of the development of workforce alternatives that create new oral health service access to NH residents currently underserved due to limited workforce in relation to geography, demographics, insurance/benefit coverage, etc.
- The development of best-practices through the examination of new options by means of monitored, measured pilot projects.

We encourage the legislature to continue the oral health workforce alternative discussion with a goal to increase access to oral health services within the state. The Coalition remains at the table to hear the support and concerns of others. We will examine comments and potential amendments as they are presented.

Thank you.

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The New Hampshire Oral Health Coalition is a state-wide diverse collaborative of organizations, agencies and individuals focusing on oral health access, education, prevention, workforce development, and advocacy aimed to promote optimal oral health for the people of New Hampshire.