

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5399 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING DENTISTRY.

Vote Date: 3/9/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/4/2026

File No.: 115

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

HB 5399 provides language that allows dentists to have more flexibility when processing Xray orders by not requiring them to be onsite when delegating the responsibility for taking the Xrays to a dental assistant. It also allows dentists to administer nonsurgical cosmetic procedures and injections on a patient's face. Under current law such cosmetic procedures are allowed only for those related to the jaw or mouth.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

Substitute language specifies that dentists may administer cosmetic injections only in the face, and there is substitute language that clarifies when dental assistants can administer Xrays. Finally, there is substitute language that allows dentists to select, rather than require, continuing education from the DPH Commissioner's list of topics, to which is added education on providing dental care to people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Christian Duborg, Food and Nutrition Policy Analyst, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (CWCSEO):

HB 5399 introduces language that helps streamline the process to further integrate dentists as a part of the safety net that identifies trafficking victims, a practice common across several other professions. HB 5399's emphasis on intentional efforts to ensure that providers are trained in how to identify suspected trafficking victims will help broaden potential avenues for intervention and support through an outlet that trafficking victims already utilize.

Both adults and children with IDD face significantly higher rates of oral health problems compared to the general population. Providing dental care to this population requires specialized skills, as patients may have limited mouth opening, involuntary movements, communication challenges, and complex medication regimens.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Dr. David Fried, past President of the Connecticut State Dental Association:

This legislation modernizes Connecticut's dental practice act by allowing properly trained dentists to administer neuromodulators and dermal fillers as part of comprehensive dental care. Patients are already seeking these services. They deserve to receive them in licensed, regulated healthcare settings from providers with deep anatomical expertise and formal training in facial injections.

Dr. Daniela Boldikova, Board-Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon:

This legislation is not about expanding beyond our competence. It is about aligning the law with the training we already have and allowing patients to receive comprehensive care from the surgeon who knows their anatomy and surgical history best.

Dr. Summer Lerch, President of CT State Dental Association (CSDA):

HB 5399 provides the following improvements:

1. 37 states now allow dentists to do these procedures.
2. There have been no untoward or negative outcomes in these states from dentists doing cosmetic procedures on the face.
3. We will become a more attractive state for new dentists when we offer them an ability to practice at the full scope of their training.

The treatment of individuals with intellectual disabilities (IDD) is changing, what we understand about IDD is expanding and our care for this group needs to expand too.

Dr. Courtney Regan, associate general dentist:

Under current Connecticut law, if a patient would benefit from a cosmetic injection—whether as part of a comprehensive treatment plan or for elective esthetic purposes—I am unable to provide that service. HB 5399 would allow associate dentists like me to better serve our patients, expand access to care, and practice to the full extent of our professional training.

Others in Support of the Bill:

- Nochelle Foppiano, Dental Hygienist
- Dr. Louis Malcmacher, American Academy of Facial Esthetics (AAFE)
- Kathlene Gerrity, Executive Director, Connecticut State Dental Association

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION

Boris Goldman, CT Society of Plastic Surgeons:

HB 5399 poses serious patient risks given the fact that dentists lack the clinical training to perform surgery outside of the oral cavity. It is important to understand that a surgical error of just a few millimeters can result in a punctured eyeball with resulting catastrophic vision loss.

Allowing dentists who have not also fulfilled the requisite medical school and postdoctoral residency training to inject botulinum toxin neuromodulators and dermal fillers, without limitations, would jeopardize patient safety and lower the standard of care in Connecticut.

Atique Mirza, MD, Hartford County Medical Association (HCMA):

Cosmetic injections are medical procedures not cosmetic conveniences. While often marketed as simple and low risk, these injections carry potentially serious and irreversible complications, including vascular occlusion, tissue necrosis, stroke, nerve injury, and permanent blindness. These outcomes, while uncommon, are well-documented in medical literature and require immediate recognition and advanced medical management. Scope of practice expansions should be driven by patient safety, not market access. Dentists are highly trained professionals in oral health care; however, their core education and clinical training do not include the depth of surgical facial anatomy, aesthetic evaluation, and systemic complication management that physicians receive through medical school and multi-year residency training.

Kristin Hellquist, Senior Chief Advocacy Officer, American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ASDSA):

Procedures by any means, methods, devices or instruments that can alter or cause biologic change or damage the skin and subcutaneous tissue constitute the practice of medicine and surgery. With the growing public demand for facial fillers and neuromodulators, providing patients with properly trained, educated, and supervised medical personnel is a safeguard Connecticut should have for its citizenry. To best protect the citizens of Connecticut from adverse events and ensure quality patient care, we urge you to oppose legislation that would allow dentists to administer botulinum toxins and dermal fillers.

Others in Opposition to the Bill:

- Peter S. Katz, DMD Chairman, Connecticut State Dental Commission
- Joseph B. O'Connell, M.D. Plastic Surgery of Southern Connecticut, LLC.

Reported by: David Rackliffe, Asst. Clerk

Date: March 12, 2026