

Malika Abdul-Basir

From: Katie Duggan
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:52 AM
To: Malika Abdul-Basir
Subject: FW: House Bill 4718

From: Barbara Gurnee [<mailto:bgurnee9896@charter.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:59 PM
To: Katie Duggan
Cc: Jennifer Kindel
Subject: House Bill 4718

RE: House Bill 4718

I have managed a "free" dental clinic since 1979 until a year ago, when I went back into private practice. I understand that there is a need for Dental Assistants to work in PA 161 Clinics and firmly support access to care evidenced by my working in a clinic for over 30 years.

However, I am concerned about the possible misuse of dental assistants in these clinics. Registered Dental Assistants are licensed to perform R.D.A. tasks that Dental Hygienists cannot unless they too are an R.D.A. How can a hygienist supervise an assistant if the hygienist can't legally perform the tasks themselves? Is this House Bill referring to Registered Dental Assistants or Dental Assistants?

The MI Public Health Code does not recognize a "dental assistant" or "non-licensed dental assistant", it only recognizes Registered Dental Assistants. Dental assistants may not have formal education, aren't required to be CPR certified, nor are they required to know the Dentistry Administrative Rules. R.D.A., R.D.H., and DDS all have requirements to be licensed and provide treatment for patients.

I do not understand why or how the MI Public Health Code and the Administrative Rules for Dentistry are not in alignment. As I speak with area offices, I realize that there is much confusion regarding the law and rules. The Public Health Code needs to be clarified regarding the title of "Dental Assistant".

I do NOT support House Bill 4718 as written.

Yours in Dental Health,

Barbara Gurnee CDA, R.D.A., FADAA, BS
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