



February 24, 2015

The House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rep. Dan Hawkins, Chairman
Testimony in opposition to HB 2079

My name is Dr. Michael Perpich. I am a practicing dentist in Richfield, Minnesota. I have been involved with dental therapists in Minnesota since the worker was created. I was an original member of the workgroup that created the Oral Health Care Practitioner. In addition, in the past year I have made three collaborative agreements with three dental therapists. I would like to share my experience in working with the dental therapists and what impact they have made in Minnesota.

First, there is no cost saving to the patient. The patient pays the same fee for a filling whether the dentist or the dental therapist does it.

Second, they do not practice on their own in remote areas of Minnesota. Eleven of the forty-four dental therapists practice in rural areas, a majority practicing in the seven county metro area.

I would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Perpich, D.D.S.