

From: [Paulo DaRosa](#)
To: [SLegislation](#)
Subject: Support for S2887
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*Honorable Sen. Murray and
Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee*

Re- S2887 Support

Dear Senator Murray:

For years, RI dentists and their patients have been under the control of insurance companies, and it is time to give freedom of choice back to the people. You have the power to do just that and the people of Rhode Island need you to, by supporting Bill S-2887, which transfers control back to the dentists, but even more so to the patients that they serve.

In 2004 a group of dentists deemed it necessary to ask for legislation that would give patients the freedom to choose what dentists would provide their care by giving them the ability to have their dental insurance payments sent directly to those dentists to help pay for their care. Unfortunately, Delta Dental of RI chose to manipulate the system to avoid their responsibility to their subscribers. Instead of following the statute, they created fee allowance tables in order to circumvent the law and penalize patients by way of directing them to specific dentists, many times, not the ones of their choosing.

They did so to "force" dentists to stay in their network or be punished if they decided to leave. Since they could no longer control the dentists, they enforced their control upon the patients by reducing their benefits or eliminating them entirely for making their own educated choices on who they wanted to provide their care.

My practice, in Cumberland, RI, has a very large blue collar, minority patient base, which has financial constraints. One of the more concerning issues my patients and I currently face is with specialist referrals. Because of the restrictions placed by their insurance companies, many patients cannot afford the extra cost of going to an out of network dentist. Instead, they are being guided to in network dental offices with subpar specialists and then returning to me with problems/concerns, and many times with treatment plans filled with unnecessary treatment recommendations. The passage of this bill will allow me and my patients to have full control of their treatment, from start to finish, including any specialists that may be needed.

This bill restores the original intent of the legislation by requiring insurance companies to pay all dentists equally for the same treatments and allows patients to seek care from any dentist with the knowledge they can use their dental insurance the same way no matter where they receive their care.

Please restore the control back to the dentists and the patients where it belongs.

Sincerely,

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