

January 9, 2011

BUSINESS & LABOR

EXHIBIT NO. 5  
DATE 1-12-11  
BILL NO. SB101

Senator Bruce Tutvedt  
Montana Senate  
P.O. Box 200500  
Helena, MT 59620-0500

I am writing you regarding Senate Bill 101, Introduced by V. Jackson, "An Act Creating a Board of Denturistry".

I believe that Denturists should have their own board. Having had dentures for 30 plus years, I know the importance of having appliances in my mouth that I am comfortable with wearing, being around people and knowing that they look and respond as close to natural teeth as possible. When I was growing up, many people with dentures only wore the dentures to eat. Because the dentures were not comfortable or they didn't look natural, people didn't wear them. With Denturists working with Dentists I am fortunate because I am comfortable.

Denturists deal with dentures, not natural teeth. They work with appliances to be worn in the mouth to replace missing natural teeth. The practice of denturists is unique in that they deal only with making, placing, construction, altering, reproducing or repairing dentures.

Because their field is specialized they are the ones that are involved with and know key issues regarding regulating their profession, licensing, regulator developments, and can foster increased dialogue and participation in consumer protection efforts.

Without a Board of Denturistry the public stands to lose. Under their own board they will be more effective:

- with issues focused on potential changes to the practical examination
- potential legislation (fitting oral prosthetic devices other than dentures)
- licensing of denturists
- other licensing issues (when are licenses valid, revoking licenses, etc.)

I thank you for your time and considering this information when voting for reinstating the Board of Denturistry.

  
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	1972	1972-1973	1979	2003	2006	2011
	Dentures	Relining	Relining	Dentures	Relining	Dentures
Dentist	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 600.00				
Dentist			\$ 800.00			
Denturist				\$1,600.00		
Denturist					\$ 100.00	\$1,800.00

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Dentures and relining, dentures didn't fit well.  
Didn't talk much, dentures would fly out of my mouth.  
Uncomfortable.  
Uncomfortable being in public, held my hand over mouth.

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Denturist made dentures.  
Sent to denturist by medical doctor, having problems with headaches and earaches.  
Denturist made dentures so as to align the jaw back into place.  
Dentures stay in and are very comfortable.  
Last set of dentures, lower plate relined once.

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39 years later, new dentures in 2011 from denturist \$600 cheaper than first set of dentures.

This is not meant to take anything away from dentists. They do a wonderful job with natural teeth.  
Denturists have specialized training for appliances to be worn in the mouth replacing natural teeth.