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Wayne Stuberg, PT (Chair)
Members, 407 Technical Review Committee
c/o Ronald Briel
Program Manager, Credentialing Review Program
Department of Health and Human Services
Licensure Unit, RPQI
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Dear Dr. Stuberg and Members of the Committee:

My name is Burke Noel and I am current President of Nebraska Academy of General Dentistry. I have been practicing for 18 years and 15 at my current location. I would like to clarify my position as in favor of expanded function dental assistants and oppose expanded duties for dental hygienists under **general** supervision. The safety of the public is the ultimate goal. I feel, with direct or indirect supervision, dental hygienists and assistants can do more expanded functions, but only with expanded education, training, and supervision. The knowledge to be able to do these functions can be learned in a specific course and training, but it is the bigger picture of how to handle emergencies or complications if they arise. Without a supervising dentist on premise this could be detrimental to the patient. The argument is to expand services to remote locations and also nursing homes. I would like to say that in remote locations there would not be sufficient backup if a problem arises and holds true with the unique medical histories patients in a nursing home present. I have worked with expanded function hygienists in Washington State and found them very capable of performing the expanded duties, but they were also supervised directly and I had to check the work before patient was dismissed. There were times that problems arose and couldn't have been handled without a dentist present; for example, restorations not placed properly and had to be redone.

In conclusion I am in favor of both hygienists and assistants providing expanded duties, but I would like the Board to carefully consider the 407 application as detrimental to patients as it is written.

Sincerely,

R. Burke Noel, DDS, MAGD