



# APPLE TREE DENTAL

Access • Compassion • Excellence

## MINNESOTA CENTERS FOR DENTAL HEALTH

### Coon Rapids Center

8960 Springbrook Dr.  
Suite 150  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433  
763.784.7570

### Fergus Falls Center

2001 W. Lincoln Ave  
Suite 133  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
218.998.2218

### Hawley Center

520 Main Street  
Hawley, MN 56549  
218.483.1038

### Madelia Center

515 Drew Ave SE  
Madelia, MN 56062  
507.642.8742

### Mounds View Center

2442 County Highway 10  
Mounds View, MN 55112  
763.316.5400

### Rochester Center

973 Skyline Dr. SW  
Rochester, MN 55902  
507.424.1040

## CALIFORNIA CENTERS FOR DENTAL HEALTH

### San Mateo Center

430 N. El Camino Real  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
763.600.6896

### Sonrisas Center

210 San Mateo Road  
Suite 104  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
650.726.2144

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE

8960 Springbrook Dr. NW  
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763.784.7993

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March 13, 2017

Dear Representative Pierson;

I am writing to express my strong support for HF1712. Thank you for authoring this bill to improve access to dental care by extending the reach of the dental workforce and taking full advantage of the skills and expertise of collaborative practice dental hygienists as prevention specialists.

Since its enactment in 2001, collaborative practice has allowed Apple Tree's dental hygienists to serve as our "frontline providers" in long-term care facilities, group homes, Head Start centers and the other community-based settings we serve. Collaborative practice dental hygienists provide not only education and prevention services, but also screen and coordinate referrals for dental care. Our emphasis on outreach to high-risk, low-access populations, reduces transportation and other barriers to care. Timely care prevents dental emergencies and drives down total dental treatment costs. HF1712 will increase the number of our hygienists who can use collaborative agreements and will increase the efficiency of care we provide to the over 25,000 Minnesota Health Care Program patients we serve each year.

For the broader dental community, clarifying Minnesota Statute 150A.10 will dispel confusion about collaborative practice, and encourage more dental hygienists and dentists to collaborate to improve access to care.

Apple Tree joined forces with Minnesota's Board of Dentistry, Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Dental and Dental Hygiene Associations, dental hygiene educators and other stakeholders in an extensive and inclusive process to identify these needed clarifications. I strongly encourage the Health and Human Services Reform Committee to give full consideration to their dedicated efforts by passing HF1712.

Many thanks for your untiring efforts to improve Minnesota Health Care Programs.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Helgeson, DDS  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Tara Erickson