

March 29, 2023



The Honorable Rep. Tina Liebling, Chair
House Health Finance Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Liebling and Committee Members:

We, the undersigned dental providers, make up the Minnesota Safety Net Oral Health Alliance (the “Oral Health Alliance”), a coalition of safety net dental providers who provide oral health care to underserved communities across the state. We are writing you today to offer our support for three significant proposals currently included in the omnibus health finance bill (H.F. 2930).

Critical Access Dental Infrastructure Program: The Oral Health Alliance is very supportive of the proposal to create a critical access dental infrastructure program to provide \$20 million in one-time grants and forgivable loans to critical access dental (“CAD”) providers for the purposes of supporting the preservation and expansion of their clinical capacity. The funds can be used to support the construction of new clinics, the expansion or renovation of existing clinics, or the acquisition of dental equipment (including that used for mobile and/or tele-dentistry). CAD providers are uniquely suited to serve the communities enrolled in MA and these dollars will make an immediate and marked impact on Minnesota’s efforts to expand access to dental service for public program enrollees.

Clinical Dental Education Innovation Grants: The Oral Health Alliance is also very supportive of the language which would dedicate roughly \$1.2 million per year towards grants to educational institutions and clinical training sites that are working to expand access to dental care. The Oral Health Alliance is very supportive of any support for the development of the next generation of dental professionals.

Restoring MA Coverage for Adult Dental Services: The Oral Health Alliance believes strongly that access to quality dental care is fundamental to public health and supports the language in H.F. 2930 that restores a full adult dental benefit set for individuals on Medical Assistance.

The Minnesota Oral Health Alliance looks forward to continuing to work with Rep. Liebling and the members of this committee the legislative session progresses. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Safety Net Oral Health Alliance

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