

February 23, 2022

Rep. John Poston
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155



APPLE TREE DENTAL

Access • Compassion • Excellence

Dear Rep. John Poston

My name is Dr. Michael Helgeson and I am the CEO of Apple Tree Dental which has clinics throughout Minnesota including our newest clinic in Fergus Falls which is a joint venture with the State of Minnesota. Our non-profit clinic system has an innovative approach to care by delivering care to children, adults, and elders who face barriers to care at Head Start Centers, local schools, group homes for people with disabilities, assisted living centers, nursing facilities, and other sites.

We are proud to serve everyone; transcending age, ability, and socioeconomic status to give our patients the dental care they need for life. We are very thankful that you are authoring this legislation because we have treated a number of patients with ectodermal dysplasias and therefore we know how life altering being able to access dental care for this disease can be.

Patients with ectodermal dysplasia may have difficulty with swallowing, have dryness of the mouth, speech difficulties and could be missing some or all of their teeth. These symptoms lead to other health care condition such as unbearable depression which we saw in our patients, especially as they aged and hoped to have more productive and social lives.

While Apple Tree was very happy to be able to provide care for these patients by covering costs through grants and donations, not all providers are able to do that and having a benefit for this care is critical to Minnesotans suffering with this disease.

Thank you for your efforts to improve oral health care for Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Helgeson" followed by a stylized flourish.

Michael J. Helgeson, DDS
Chief Executive Officer