



May 10, 2021

Representative Tina Libeling  
477 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Michelle Benson  
3109 Minnesota Senate Building.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Liebling and Benson,

Thank you for the inclusion of dental provisions in both the Senate and House omnibus bills. These provisions will undoubtedly have a positive impact on access to dental care in Minnesota. In particular we were excited to see that both bills have language to add a dentist member to the Rural Health Advisory Committee and language expanding Medical Assistance to include nonsurgical treatment for adult periodontal disease. The Help Minnesota Smile coalition has been advocating for expanding services to include treatment for periodontal disease. We believe it will improve a patient's health while creating cost savings by reducing the use of the emergency rooms and allow patients to get necessary preventative care.

The Minnesota Dental Association and dentists across the state have been expressing concerns about access to care in Minnesota. Dental providers in Minnesota receive some of the lowest public assistance reimbursement rates in the country and consequently has resulted in low provider participation rates and low patient participation rates. The House omnibus bill includes provisions that would have a positive impact on improving reimbursement rates and increase access to care. We urge you to support the House provisions including:

1. Administering the dental Medical Assistance program through a single administrator.
2. Rebased the provider rates and updating them from 1989 to 86% of the fifth percentile of 2018 submitted charges.

At the start of the legislative session, dentists from every corner of the state met with their legislators and when asked what the biggest obstacle to providing care is, the overwhelming majority pointed to the low reimbursement rates. The low rates have been a barrier for providers who want to serve more patients. By switching to a single administrator, the state can use the dollars they will save and invest that money in the rebasing proposal resulting in an across-the-board rate increase. A single administrator will also lessen the administrative burden placed on providers while improving transparency.

We believe that the inclusion of multiple dental provisions in both the Senate and House omnibus bill reflects the need to invest more in Minnesotan's oral health. Thank you both for the time that you have spent prioritizing oral health this session and playing a critical role in moving various proposals forward. We hope that the final version of the bill will include the House language as noted above. If you have any questions, please contact Carissa Kemp at [ckemp@mndental.org](mailto:ckemp@mndental.org) or 715-572-1234.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carmelo Cinqueonce".

Carmelo Cinqueonce, MBA  
Executive Director