



APPLE TREE DENTAL

Access • Compassion • Excellence

March 13, 2017

Dear Representative Franson;

I am writing in support of HF2304, which I just today learned is to be heard by the Health and Human Services Reform Committee. Apple Tree Dental supports your bill because it authorizes the use of handheld x-ray units as designed *with* established safety procedures and *without* the current additional administrative burden of applying for waivers.

Apple Tree Dental is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the oral health of all people, including those with special dental access needs who face barriers to care. I serve as Apple Tree's Minnesota Dental Director and Radiation Safety Officer and am also a member of the Minnesota Department of Health's dental focus group meeting for the X-ray Rules Revision of Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4732 radiation rules.

Apple Tree's patients include low-income children and families, pre-school age children attending Head Start, elderly nursing home residents, and people with disabilities. Four of our programs (Minneapolis, Rochester, Hawley, and Fergus Falls) use NOMAD Handheld Dental X-ray Systems according to the stipulations outlined in variances which we must seek every other year from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). From the research on this and our direct experience, we are confident in the safety of our handheld x-ray units for both our staff and our patients.

The handheld feature of the NOMAD is particularly helpful for our patients with physical conditions that limit their mobility or ability to cooperate. One of many examples would be nursing home residents with spinal curvatures that make it difficult for them to sit straight or hold their head upright. In those circumstances, use of the NOMAD, which are more flexibly adjusted to any angle than traditional units, increases our ability to obtain diagnostic quality x-rays. This reduces the need for retakes and thereby decreases radiation exposure.

Your passage of HF2304 will reduce unnecessary administrative burdens and allow the appropriate use of safely designed handheld x-ray units. Thank you for your consideration and support.

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