



Community Dental Care

Quality Dental Care and Preventive Education for All
www.cdenc.org

Ritu Aggarwal, BDS
Brianna Berg, DDS
Noah Berge, DDS
Christie Berkseth-Rojas, DDS
Pallavi Bhosale, DDS
Todd Billington, DDS
Kathryn Connell, DDS
Carl Ebert, DDS
Amanda Elbert, DDS
Diane Fish, DDS
Emilio Galarraga, DDS
Christina Ganfield, BDS
Elizabeth Laabs, DDS

Kyley Lebens, DDS
Ashu Malhotra, DDS
Aram Mazhary, DDS
Marina Michael, DDS
Hibaq Mohamed, DDS
Kara Mullins, DDS
Nicole Napier, DDS
Shivan Nelson, DDS
Lincy Paul, DDS
Audrey Perkins, DDS
Vacharee Peterson, DDS
Brian Singletary, DMD
Ross Schafer, DDS

Luke Sharpe, DDS
Katherine Sievert, DDS
Brent Sorenson, DDS
Shelly Stecker, DDS
Justin Stevens, DDS
Erin Topley, DDS
Bao Tran, DDS
Sara VanDemark, DDS
Aroone Vang, DDS
Jessica Waterbury, DDS
Jennifer Watkins, DDS
Nicholas Weinand, DDS

March 14, 2017

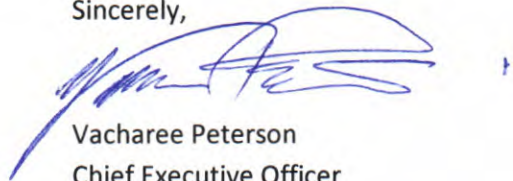
Dear Representative Schomacker,

I am writing in support of HF 1712, which will be heard in the Health and Human Services Reform Committee. HF 1712 will expand access for many needy patients and improve dental services to these communities.

Community Dental Care is a nonprofit community clinic that provides general dental services primarily to low-income and minority patients. Our mission/vision is to ensure equal access to quality dental care, and preventive education for these communities—and collaborative dental hygiene practice has been an important tool in realizing this vision. Community Dental Care employs several collaborative practice dental hygienists and dental assistants who work together provide oral health education, dental screening, and preventive dental services in non-traditional settings (such as schools and other community sites). These dental professionals play a vital role in combating dental caries in children and improving oral health within high risk communities—and they do so in an efficient and affordable way. HF1712 will increase access to preventive dental services by allowing many hygienists to utilize collaborative agreements that will benefit patients in need.

Dental decay is the most common childhood disease of childhood —and it not only affects oral health! It has a significant impact on social and intellectual development, as well as general health! School and community based prevention programs utilize the expertise of Collaborative practice dental hygienists and dental assistants to provide the education and services needed to help stamp out dental disease. We see the value in this expansion of services and would like to ask for your, and the committee's, support in passing HF 1712. This initiative will help us make strides toward keeping Minnesota's children healthy and cavity free! Thank you for your wise leadership.

Sincerely,



Vacharee Peterson
Chief Executive Officer