



March 22, 2022

Dear Chair Lieblich and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Dental Association (MDA), I write to you in support of HF4478, introduced by Representative Liz Reyer. This bill addresses the rebasing of dental payment rates under medical assistance (Medicaid) and Minnesota Care.

Prior to the 2021 legislative session, Minnesota nationally ranked toward the bottom in reimbursement rates. A 2018 study by the American Dental Association ranked Minnesota at 47<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states for adult dental reimbursement, and 49<sup>th</sup> for pediatric dental reimbursement. Worse, the dental provider reimbursement rates were based on average submitted charges from 1989, over thirty years ago.

Last year, significant progress was made to increase medical assistance reimbursement rates for dental care. The 2021 Health and Human Services Finance Omnibus bill appropriated approximately \$61 million to increase reimbursement rates, an approximate increase of 98%. The MDA thanks Chair Lieblich for her hard work and support in increasing Minnesota's dental reimbursement rates.

HF4478 ensures that Minnesota maintains fair and updated rates by requiring the Department of Human Services to rebase payment rates every three years after January 1, 2023. This provision ensures that Minnesota does not fall behind again and maintains its place as a nationwide leader in dental care.

The MDA supports payment rate rebasing and strongly urges members to vote in favor of HF4478.

Sincerely,

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

Carmelo Cinqueonce, MBA  
Executive Director

*The Minnesota Dental Association is a statewide professional membership organization representing Minnesota-licensed dentists and dental students, with a membership of over 3,000 dentists.*