

March 29, 2023

Rep. Tina Liebling, Chair  
House Health Finance & Policy Committee  
477 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Rep. Liebling and committee members,

The Minnesota Dental Hygienists Association (MnDHA) would like to thank you and your committee members to your ongoing commitment to Minnesota's oral health and your ongoing focus for those individuals who rely on our public health programs for their dental care. Specifically, there are number of items in your proposed omnibus health and human services budget bill (H.F. 2930) that the MnDHA enthusiastically supports, including:

**Support for Critical Access Dental (CAD) Providers:** The MnDHA strongly supports the \$20 million included in H.F. 2930 for CAD provider infrastructure and workforce grants. CAD providers see the majority of patients who are on Minnesota public programs and receiving dental care. These providers should be supported with grant money to improve their infrastructure and create new ways to grow and meet their workforce needs.

**Expanded Adult Dental Benefit:** The MnDHA strongly supports the proposal to reinstate a comprehensive dental benefit set for non-pregnant adults. Access to oral health care is essential to public health and the cuts to the dental benefit set in the early 2000's was a major step backward. This proposal is long overdue and greatly appreciated.

The MnDHA greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the omnibus health and human services budget bill and looks forward to collaborating on oral health issues as the legislative session progresses.

Respectfully,

Carol Dahlke, President  
Minnesota Dental Hygienists Association