



April 6, 2026,

Representative Robert Bierman, Co-Chair  
Health Finance & Policy Committee  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 5515

Representative Jeff Backer, Co-Chair  
Health Finance & Policy Committee  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 5515

Co-Chairs Bierman and Backer,

On behalf of the Minnesota Dental Association (MDA), thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HF4401.

In 2025, the Legislature delayed implementation of a single administrator for dental services under Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) until 2028 and established a work group to provide recommendations on how best to implement the change. While the concept of a single administrator was not originally proposed by the MDA, our membership has supported it to improve administrative efficiency, consistency, and transparency.

A 2022 DHS legislative report identified several reasons dentists hesitate to participate in MHCP, including low reimbursement rates, inconsistent care coordination, multiple prior authorization processes, and administrative burdens that vary across fee for service, managed care, and county-based purchasing models. Our members experience these challenges firsthand, and a single administrator has the potential to simplify and improve the system.

For a single administrator model to succeed for both providers and patients, it must be paired with meaningful changes to the reimbursement structure. Minnesota's current dental reimbursement system remains fundamentally outdated and does not reflect the actual cost of providing care today. Although rates have been adjusted over time, the underlying methodology is still based on 1989 charges. This antiquated foundation remains a primary barrier to provider participation in MHCP and contributes to ongoing access challenges for patients across the state. While previous rate increases have resulted in modest gains, a more substantial structural update is necessary to make participation sustainable for dental practices.

Over the past several months, the MDA has actively participated in the Legislature's dental access work group. One of the group's first tasks has been to discuss and recommend how dental reimbursement rates should be set in statute, a central focus of its deliberations and recommendations to DHS. Without updating the underlying statutory rate structure, the state risks implementing administrative reform without addressing one of the main reasons providers do not participate in the program.

Conversations regarding the rate structure are ongoing, and the MDA remains committed to achieving an updated and sustainable system that supports provider participation and improves



access to care for Minnesota patients. We ask for your support in advancing HF4401 as discussions around dental reimbursement continue during the final weeks of session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Murphy".

Dan Murphy, MPP  
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***About the Minnesota Dental Association***

*The Minnesota Dental Association is the voice of dentistry in Minnesota, representing practicing dentists. It is committed to the highest standards of oral health and access to care for all Minnesotans. Learn more at: [www.mndental.org](http://www.mndental.org).*