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May 4, 2017

Dr. Joaquin Arambula,  
Chair. Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
State Capitol, Room 5155. Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Arambula,

Thank you for holding an informative hearing on the state's Denti-Cal and Dental Managed Care programs in April.

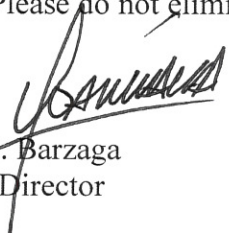
The Center for Oral Health opposes any efforts to eliminate the dental managed care program in Sacramento because it will negatively affect hundreds of thousands of Denti-Cal beneficiaries.

In 2016, Center for Oral Health established **Early Smiles Sacramento**, a program that has reached over 7,000 at-risk children in Sacramento since September. This is an evidence-based program that prevents dental disease and connects children and families to dental care. This program is possible because the local dental managed care plans currently guarantee it.

Also in 2016, and more recently in 2017, we established a **training for Primary Care Providers** to improve access to early preventive care by integrating oral health risk assessment, oral health education, and early prevention with pediatric well-child visits. These evidence-based interventions will be gone if the State decides to eliminate dental managed care.

If the Sacramento GMC program is eliminated, please know that the Early Smiles School-based screening program will go away. It is frustrating to think that the State is not aware of how dramatic, and potentially dangerous replacing managed care with an ineffective fee-for-service system is. Eliminating a Program that has improved with early interventions, preventive dental care, and intensive case management, is a mistake.

I understand that there have been discussions at the State level to cut Sacramento County's GMC program in the upcoming May Budget Revise. I also question how the complex anesthesia cases will be handled. Please do not eliminate this program.

  
Conrado E. Barzaga  
Executive Director

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May 4, 2017

Dr. Richard Pan  
Senator  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Pan,

Thank you for your continuous support of the Center for Oral Health's **Early Smiles Sacramento** program.

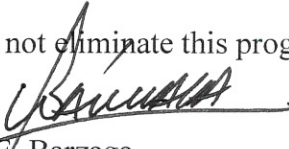
We learned that there have been discussions at the State level to cut Sacramento County's GMC program in the upcoming May Budget Revise. The Center for Oral Health opposes any efforts to eliminate the dental managed care program in Sacramento because it will negatively affect hundreds of thousands of Denti-Cal beneficiaries.

As you know, in the summer of 2016 Center for Oral Health established **Early Smiles Sacramento**, a program that has reached over 7,000 at-risk children in Sacramento since September. As Dr. Kumar, State Dental Director said at the inaugural event, this is an evidence-based program that prevents dental disease and connects children and families to dental care. This program is possible because the local dental managed care plans currently guarantee it.

Also in 2016, and more recently in 2017, we established a **training for Primary Care Providers** to improve access to early preventive care by integrating oral health risk assessment, oral health education, and early prevention with pediatric well-child visits. These evidence-based interventions will be gone if the State decides to eliminate dental managed care.

If Sacramento GMC program is eliminated, **Early Smiles Sacramento** will go away. It is frustrating to think that the State is not aware of how dramatic, and potentially dangerous replacing managed care with an ineffective fee-for-service system is. Eliminating a Program that has improved with early interventions, preventive dental care, and intensive case management, is a mistake.

Please do not eliminate this program.

  
Conrado E. Barzaga  
Executive Director