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February 27, 2020

Re: Opposition To Eliminate Los Angeles County "PHP" DMC Program

Dear State Representative:

I am writing, as a local health professional, in opposition to a provision in the recently proposed FY 2020-21 State Budget. I strongly urge you, as my County Supervisor/State Legislator/State Senator, to join me in actively opposing this provision which would eliminate the Denti-Cal Managed Care (DMC) Program in Los Angeles County and fight to improve the program to benefit both patients and providers.

We have been providing comprehensive oral health treatment services to dentally underserved children and their caregivers at The Smile Store (a state-of-the-art treatment center) in a child-friendly and customer focused environment for over 24 years. I am very proud of the work we do for our patients in partnership with LIBERTY Dental Plan (LIBERTY). We work closely together to help ensure that the needs of our patients are met. We jointly coordinate care and take responsibility for ensuring the highest quality oral health care is delivered so that our patients can access care on a continuous basis.

We have been a part of LIBERTY for more than 4 years in General/Specialty practice for adults, children, and families in the LA PHP program.

Moreover, LIBERTY is committed to our vision and mission in the local community. They provide us with oral health products (toothbrushes, sealants, education materials, etc.) for our treatment and oral health educations/screenings on site at our Shannon Kelly Toothfairy Cottage or off-site at the local schools, health fairs, community-based organizations, etc.) regardless of whether someone is insured by LIBERTY.

The proposal to eliminate the Los Angeles County DMC Program completely contradicts the major tenet of the State's new and groundbreaking Medi-Cal Healthy CA for All Initiative. Please do not let this happen to our most vulnerable community members.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dennis Young

Dennis Young, Dr.PH
President & CEO