

3/1/20

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed budget changes which involve the elimination of Geographic Managed Care Plans in Sacramento County. If it is eliminated and replaced with the Fee for Service Plan, it will affect the funding that Early Smiles Sacramento needs to provide services to families and schools. Early intervention with oral health and treatment of dental caries helps reduce chronic absenteeism in schools and supports student learning. As a school nurse in Sacramento County, I have utilized Early Smiles in helping support student health needs for two smaller districts in Sacramento County for the past two years. Students from these areas usually come from families with limited resources and the dental screening that Early Smiles Sacramento provides may be the first screening that some of them may receive. Students that already have access to dental care can also benefit from reinforced oral health education. Receiving services from Early Smiles Sacramento has a positive impact on my students and their families and prevents problems such as infections, abscesses, difficulty sleeping, poor self-esteem as well as other health problems. Thank you for taking the time to review my concerns on this issue. I would appreciate knowing your position on this bill.

Sincerely,

Diana Tom, RN BSN
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