



February 28, 2020

The Honorable Doctor Richard Pan
2251 Florin Road, Suite 156
Sacramento, CA 95822

RE: 2020-21 State Budget Provision to Eliminate Sacramento County DMC Program

Dear Senator Pan:

As a dentist who owns dental practices in Sacramento County and surrounding areas, I am writing to you to voice my strong opposition to the provision within the Fiscal Year 2020-21 State Budget that would eliminate the Denti-Cal Managed Care (DMC) Program here. I am an active member of the American Dental Association, the California Dental Association, and the Sacramento District Dental Society and have devoted myself to serving the community for many years. My ultimate goal is to help improve the wellbeing of patients in my offices through conservative and preventative dentistry. The DMC Program supports that intent.

I have an extensive history with the DMC Program and believe it fulfills many of the health care goals. The DMC Plans have been striving to ensure our most vulnerable men, women, and children receive the oral health care services that are so necessary. My team and I have supported the DMC plans and worked with local initiatives in promoting oral health education and screenings in Sacramento County through community outreach events including your office's Million Meals events over the past 2 years.

2019 UTILIZATION OF DMC WITHIN MY SACRAMENTO AREA OFFICES

Number of Patient Office Visits	10,536
Number of Referrals Generated for Specialty Care	1,481

These numbers represent DMC patients who have received care in my offices under the program. Included in the services we provide are ongoing care coordination, quality improvement support, timely delivery of services, and continuity of care as is required under this Program. The Fee For Service (FFS) system that is being proposed to replace DMC is unstructured and does not include these patient benefits. The "Referrals Generated" number above is especially important to note in that under DMC, we worked with each patient to ensure they received the specialty care needed whereas the proposed FFS plan would force patients to find specialty care on their own. The proposed FFS plan does not include a local specialty network that would be able to support our patients in timely access to care.

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The proposal to eliminate the Sacramento County DMC Program unequivocally contradicts the major tenet of the new Medi-Cal Healthy California for All Initiative which would place most vulnerable populations into managed care plans over the next three-to-five years. It is important that the State is consistent in its health care programs so as not to create confusion among those that try to avail themselves of these benefit programs.

I strongly urge you to actively oppose the provision that would eliminate the Denti-Cal Managed Care Program in Sacramento County. I hope you do not allow this budget provision to be enacted, thereby putting thousands of people in your District in danger of losing the benefits and ongoing support that is necessary to maintaining good oral health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DP", is placed over a faint circular watermark.

David Park DDS, MPH
CEO, Smile Dental Services