

TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 986

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

General Teamsters, Airline, Aerospace and Allied Employees, Warehousemen, Drivers, Construction, Rock and Sand



March 27, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

The elimination of Medi-Cal dental managed care being considered by the Department of Health Care Services would be devastating to working families and we strongly oppose it. Your 2020 budget calls for the elimination of the Dental Managed Care (DMC) program in Los Angeles and Sacramento Counties.

I am Secretary-Treasurer at Teamsters Local 986 and we are very concerned for the citizens in our communities who are low-income; many are immigrants and refugees who are enrolled in this program that provides all the consumer benefits given to medical patients. Elimination would force these citizens into the Fee for Service program, after decades in the existing program, where there are no guaranteed consumer protections.

Additionally, there are 250 good Teamsters Union jobs at stake with this elimination at LIBERTY Dental Plan. LIBERTY understands how to serve our diverse communities in a linguistically appropriate and culturally competent manner. We work closely together and LIBERTY goes above and beyond.

Many of our community members do not qualify for oral health benefits. LIBERTY does not ignore them. LIBERTY shows up. Its talented workforce — our neighbors and friends — provides community education and it's free for everyone. The company also participates in our Sacramento County's Early Smiles School Program providing free dental screening and referral to dentists in our schools.

We also know that LIBERTY is providing an emergency Teledentistry program during this Corona virus crisis for all Medi-Cal citizens of CA.

For the sake of the most needy working families, I respectfully ask that you reconsider the elimination of DMC in Los Angeles and Sacramento Counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Griswold".

Chris Griswold
Secretary-Treasurer
Teamsters Local 986