



February 25, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA

Subject: Budget Proposal - Transitioning Sacramento County Geographic Dental Managed Care to Fee-for-Service (OPPOSE)

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of WellSpace Health, please accept this letter expressing our deep concern and opposition to the proposal by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to transition Medi-Cal Geographic Dental Managed Care to fee-for-service model in Sacramento County.

WellSpace Health is a federally qualified health center system that provides comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral health, and support services to everyone, with a special focus on people covered by Medi-Cal and who are uninsured. In 2019, we served more than 100,000 patients and clients at more than 30 locations in Sacramento, Placer, and Amador counties.

In dental alone, we served 20,410 pediatric and adolescent patients through 56,992 visits in 2019. In our opinion, Geographic Dental Managed Care has been highly beneficial to our patients and the quality of comprehensive care they receive.

Specifically, WellSpace Health has partnered with local managed care plans in Sacramento on care coordination, language assistance, educational materials, transportation, and oral hygiene kits. **The managed care plans have also developed robust specialty dental networks that our patients would not be able to access independently of a partnering plan.** Further, two of our managed care plans have approved patient engagement strategies similar to fee-for-service that allow patients to access any of our dental facilities without limitation.

These partnerships have proven vital as we empower our patients to effectively utilize a Dental Home after being shut out of the healthcare system for decades. It is a slow process but through our partnership we have witnessed a significant transition in our patient's lives as they access care for routine cleanings, check-ups, and treatment.

Key to this success has been the Dental Managed Care Advisory Board which has a governance role in managing our network and has been instrumental in the evolution of care, locally. This tool allows providers like WellSpace Health to guide the program to best meet our patients'



needs. Most recently, it was instrumental in creating new quality programs that provide increased flexibility and improved care.

For these reasons, we strongly support the continuation of Geographic Dental Managed Care in Sacramento County and oppose its elimination.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our opinion. You are welcome to contact me directly with any questions or comments at (916) 550-5444 or jporteus@wellspacehealth.org.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Jonathan Porteus", is written over a horizontal blue line.

A. Jonathan Porteus, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: The Honorable Richard Pan, M.D., Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #3
The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, M.D., Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
The Honorable Brian Dahle, Senate District 1
The Honorable Bill Dodd, Senate District 3
The Honorable Cathleen Galgiani, Senate District 5
The Honorable Jim Nielson, Senate District 4
The Honorable Andres Borgeas, Senate District 8
The Honorable Kevin Kiley, Assembly District 6
The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Assembly District 7
The Honorable Ken Cooley, Assembly District 8
The Honorable Jim Cooper, Assembly District 9
The Honorable Jim Frazier, Assembly District 11
The Honorable Phil Serna, Chair, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Sue Frost, Vice Chair, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 2
The Honorable Susan Peters, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 3
The Honorable Don Nottoli, Sacramento County Supervisor, District 5
California Primary Care Association
California Health+ Advocates
Central Valley Health Network