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 Unified School District

9510 Elk Grove-Florin Road, Elk Grove, California 95624

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Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
700 H Street, Suite 1450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the Board,

As Superintendent of the Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD), representing nearly 64,000 students and their families, I am writing to you in opposition to a provision in the proposed FY 2020-21 State Budget regarding the elimination of the Dental Managed Care (DMC) Program in Sacramento County. I strongly urge you, as our dedicated County Supervisors, to join me in actively opposing this provision, which would eliminate a program that is providing services for thousands of our Title I school children. Our teachers, parents, students, administrators and staff of Elk Grove Unified greatly appreciate the partnership we have built with the Board of Supervisors and County staff to ensure better health and well-being for our students, and we call on your support.

EGUSD works tirelessly to provide needed resources to our students and their families. 51 percent of our students are socioeconomically disadvantaged and 14 percent are English language learners. In addition to serving our foster and homeless youth, we have also seen an increase in our refugee student population. These students and their families struggle to overcome a wide array of barriers to ensure the best health outcomes.

Beginning in 2016, the DMC plans funded the Center for Oral Health's (COH) dental screening and navigation program called **Early Smiles Sacramento (ESS)**. The ESS fills a need that a Fee-For Service delivery system cannot do by partnering with school districts like ours throughout the County to provide key health screenings at school. In fact, ESS hygienists screened over 25,000 students with DMC plans in Sacramento County elementary schools last year alone and the numbers of screenings is projected to increase as soon as schools re-open. ESS addresses urgent dental needs through extensive coordination between the parents, hygienists and the DMC plans, and helps facilitate less urgent dental concerns. When needed, ESS and the dental plans offer translation and transportation services to our families, and now DMC plans provide access to teledentistry for emergency issues. The growth in received parent consent form illustrates the established trust and reliability of the program and given today's health concerns and need to help students stay focused on their studies and growth, parents can use one less thing to worry about. Many are relieved that their children have access to necessary dental screenings and families who have been unable to navigate a student's dental insurance have found a dental home for their child.

Eliminating the DMC program takes away funding for the ESS program and would be detrimental to the oral overall health of our students as oral health and physical health are intrinsically linked. We are not alone in opposing this elimination. On April 2nd, your Medi-Cal Dental Advisory Committee (MCDAC) made a recommendation to the Board to oppose program elimination. Supervisors, we respectfully request that the Board consider and adopt MCDAC's recommendation to oppose the elimination of the DMC program as soon as possible. Further, we also request that you expeditiously notify Governor Newsom and the State Legislature, given the timing of State Budget process.

Our District, our students, our parents and our staff thank you for your consideration of this urgent request.



Christopher R. Hoffman
Superintendent,
Elk Grove Unified School District