



***San Gabriel Valley Foundation for Dental Health***

April 13, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Sondra Contino and I am the Executive Director of the San Gabriel Valley Foundation for Dental Health, and I am an advocate for our community.

Since opening our doors in 1997, we have provided well over \$5 million worth of dental care to more than 18,500 low-income children. Additionally, dental screenings and education have been provided to more than 140,000 children and their families at local schools, churches, health fairs and libraries throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Our patients are low-income – 74% live 100-200% below the Federal Poverty Level, and all are eligible for the free lunch program at school. They are either uninsured (in this case, they pay \$20 per visit, regardless of the amount of work performed) or have Denti-Cal insurance (in this case, we bill Denti-Cal directly).

Many of our patients have only known our clinic as their dental home, and many come from households with multiple children that are just making ends meet. Families with multiple children are not able to afford the \$20 co-pay, and therefore end up skipping periodic appointments, and only coming to our clinic when they are in pain. Our clinic would not be able to provide these dental services to the needy children in our community without Denti-Cal. Our patients rely on it, and we do too.

We have heard about a bad dental proposal being considered at the State and we strongly oppose it. Please do not support the elimination of our managed care dental plans in Los Angeles County. It would be devastating.

Please lend your strong leadership and all voice to activity to help us all ensure this valuable program is not cut. Affordable and high quality dental for thousands of children, adults, and families cannot be taken away from us.

Sincerely,

*Sondra Contino*

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