

Chellaiah Gomathy

Subject: FW: State Budget Cuts to Adult Dental Benefits and DMC Programs

From: Joseph Canas

Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:31 PM

To: BudgetSub1@asm.ca.gov

Subject: State Budget Cuts to Adult Dental Benefits and DMC Programs

Importance: High

Dear Committee:

As an organization who operates family dental practices in Sacramento County and Los Angeles County, I am writing to you to voice our strong opposition to the provision within the proposed State Budget that would eliminate the Denti-Cal Managed Care (DMC) Programs and cuts to Adult Dental Benefits. Our owner Doctor David Park is an active member of the American Dental Association, the California Dental Association, and the Sacramento District Dental Society and has devoted his time to serving the community for many years. As a participating care provider for the DMC plans our ultimate goal is to help improve the wellbeing of patients in our offices through conservative and preventative dentistry. The DMC Program supports that intent.

Our practices have an extensive history with the DMC Program and the communities we serve and strongly believe the DMC program fulfills many of dental health care goals in our state. Together we 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 alongside the plans in local initiatives to promote oral health education and provide dental screenings in Sacramento County and Los Angeles County through community outreach events.

In my Sacramento County practices alone we had 10,536 DMC patient visits in 2019 of which 1,481 required coordinated specialty care visits.. The specialty visit number mentioned is especially important to note in that under DMC, we worked with the DMC plans to ensure that each patient received the specialty care needed whereas the proposed FFS plan would have forced patients to find specialty care on their own. The proposed FFS plan does not include a sufficient specialty network that would be able to support our patients in timely access to care. Included in the services we provide alongside the DMC Plans are ongoing care coordination, timely delivery of services, and continuity of care which are all 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 navigation benefits.

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

Sincerely,

Joseph Canas | Vice President of Operations

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