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Dear Governor Newsom
1303 10th Street Suite 1173
Sacramento CA 95814

April 21, 2020

Dear Governor Newsom

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

I am President of UAW Local 509 and extremely concerned for the citizens in our communities who are low income; many are enrolled in the 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 Union jobs at stake (Teamsters) 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 the extra mile 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 the 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 the current Corona virus crisis for all Medi-Cal citizens of California.

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,

Gene Hurd
President
UAW Local 509