HALF of Michigan’s 10,300 registered dental hygienists (RDH) are UN- OR UNDEREMPLOYED.

Good oral health care is a dental home = EDUCATION+ PREVENTION+ RESTORATIVE CARE. A TEAM of providers means patients have ACCESS to the skill set that MEETS their NEEDS.

RDHs are LIMITED by their current scope of practice to providing education and preventative services that – while incredibly valuable – fall short of what many MICHIGANDERS NEED. (i.e. restorative services)

CODA STANDARDS allow for RDHs to enter a dental therapy education program with advanced standing to recognize the overlap in skill sets.

If SB 541 passes, RDHs IN MICHIGAN would be well-positioned to seek a license in dental therapy and they would be INCREDIBLY USEFUL in the workforce – dually licensed as a RDH and DT.

To learn more about how dental therapists can help provide access to care visit MIDentalAccess.org.

The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health (MCMCH) is partnering with other statewide organizations to improve oral health and access to dental care in Michigan by promoting evidence-based, cost-effective policy solutions. To contact us, please email info@midentalaccess.org or call 517-482-5807.