



June 4, 2025

Chair Hertel & Members of the Senate Health Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Michigan Oral Health Coalition (MOHC), we write to express our deep concern regarding cuts to Michigan's Medicaid program that would jeopardize access to oral health care for children and adults throughout the state.

MOHC, established in 2003, serves as Michigan's state oral health coalition with a clear purpose to improve oral health for all Michiganders. Our membership consists of clinicians, educators, dental benefit providers, public health professionals, and statewide grassroots and community organizations. As a network of professionals and stakeholders directly involved in the coordination and delivery of oral health services in Michigan, MOHC sees the impact of how funding for Medicaid dental services benefits the overall health, economic stability, and well being of communities in our state.

According to MDHHS, Michigan's Medicaid program covers 1 in 4 Michiganders – or 2.6 million residents. Of these residents, 1 million are children, 300,000 are living with a disability, and 168,000 are seniors.

Programs like Healthy Kids Dental has been supporting critical preventative and restorative dental care for Michigan's youth for over 20 years, providing care to over 320,000 children under the age of 21. This program is essential to laying the foundation for good oral health care, as well as keeping children in school pain-free.

For adults, the Michigan State Legislature most recently supported expanded dental services for individuals who are insured through Medicaid in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget, which took effect on April 1, 2023. This expansion covered a broader range of services in both preventative and restorative dental services to keep individuals out of the emergency department, reduce disease prevalence, and increase employability and work attendance. Removal of the adult Medicaid dental benefit in Michigan would result in an estimated \$78.8 million increase in health care costs just in the first year.

Reductions to Michigan's Medicaid dental programs would have immediate and far-reaching consequences. Safety-net dental providers, like non-profit dental clinics, local health departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Tribal Health Clinics, will be forced to reduce services or close their doors, leaving some of Michigan's most vulnerable patients without care. We will also see patients forego preventative care and



even push off much needed treatment, which would exacerbate their health conditions and increase costs to the system as people will opt for emergency department care when their oral health conditions worsen.

We urge you to consider the impact that any cuts and changes would have on our state and individuals served by Michigan's Medicaid program with an emphasis on protecting the dental benefits that have been provided to residents.

Sincerely,

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