



Connecticut Oral Health Coalition

Governor's Proposals Threaten Access to Dental Care

Community Health
Center Association of
Connecticut

Community Health
Center, Inc.

Connecticut AIDS
Resource Coalition

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Connecticut
Association of Dental
Assistants

Connecticut
Association of
School-Based Health
Centers

Connecticut Dental
Hygienists'
Association

Connecticut Oral
Health Initiative

Connecticut Society
of Pediatric Dentists

Connecticut State
Dental Association

Connecticut Voices
for Children

Greater Hartford
Legal Aid

Regional Oral Health
Collaboratives:

- Bridgeport
- Danbury
- New Britain
- New Haven
- Southeast
Connecticut
- Stamford
- Waterbury

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Proposal:

- Cut routine dental care for the 230,000 adults enrolled in HUSKY, SAGA, Medicaid fee for service and Title 19. Reimburse only emergency care.

Impact:

- ✓ Dramatically increases healthcare costs
 - Dentists will not participate in program. Dental patients will seek hospital emergency room care.
 - Emergency room dental visits increased 12% after Maryland made a similar cut
 - Emergency room care is ten times more expensive than care in dental office
- ✓ Eliminating adult routine dental care hurts children
 - Mothers with poor dental health have children with more dental problems
 - Maternal dental disease is linked to pre-term babies

Proposal:

- Requires prior authorization for all non-emergency dental services for both children and adults in all DSS Medicaid programs

Impact:

- ✓ Undermines the General Assembly's intent to ensure children's access to dental services
 - Creates costly administrative burden for Department of Social Services and providers
 - Discourages dentists from treating patients in Medicaid
 - Violates spirit of dental lawsuit settlement

The Connecticut Oral Health Coalition believes that increased Medicaid funding to the state through the federal stimulus is intended to pay for this kind of preventive healthcare and should, at least, preclude having to make these cuts.

For more information, contact COHI (860/246-2644 or info@ctoralhealth.org).