

Spring 2009

Dear Governor Rell and Members of the General Assembly,

Please protect basic health services including dental care for vulnerable Connecticut adults and children. Budget savings should not trump the pain and suffering of residents with dental disease and other health problems resulting from lack of dental care.

- Preserve basic dental services for the nearly 250,000 low-income adults age 21 and older, including pregnant women, in our Medicaid programs.
- Protect recent gains made under the settlement of the 10-year lawsuit to ensure HUSKY children finally have access to dental care. **Do not impose burdensome prior authorization requirements on Medicaid dental services.**

Oral health care is essential to overall health and must remain on our basic menu of health services. Increased federal matching funds should preserve basic dental care.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town/Zip _____

e-Mail _____



PLEASE make sure that access to basic dental care for children and adults in Medicaid is preserved in Connecticut's current and future budgets.

Do you know what will happen without access to dental care?

- Treating dental emergencies in a hospital **costs ten times more** than in-office care
- Emergency room dental visits increased 12%** after Maryland cut dental services to adults on Medicaid as Governor Rell is proposing
- Maternal dental disease is linked to **pre-term babies**. Children of mothers with no access to care are less likely to get care and more likely to suffer from dental disease
- Prior authorization would create an **expensive administrative burden** for the state and providers. It is not the best way to address fraud and abuse.
- Oral health problems cause more **missed school days** than any other type of health problem in the U.S. **One in four children gets services on HUSKY in Connecticut.**

www.ctoralhealth.org or 860/246-2644