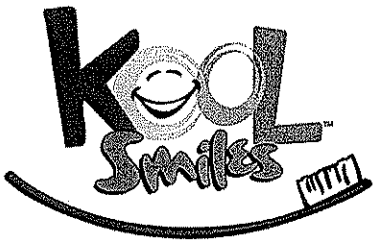

We are writing to you today to respectfully urge your support to maintain full funding for adult dental coverage which under Governor Malloy's budget proposal would be curtailed.

Kool Smiles on June 1st of 2009 opened two offices in Connecticut, in New Britain and New Haven and has since opened 3 additional offices in Bridgeport, Waterbury and Hartford. We have made a significant investment on these state of the art dental facilities and have created 101 new positions to Connecticut's employment rolls from Dentist to hygienist and office support personnel.

Kool Smiles was founded in 2002 to align with the SCHIP and Medicaid vision of providing high quality dental care to children who might not otherwise have access. Because of several positive factors associated with providing a dental home for children and in deciding to provide these services in Connecticut we changed our practice model to include adult coverage. Providing dental care to our children's parents and guardians as well as other adults fits perfectly with Connecticut's goal of providing care for families. This family concept addresses the issues of the difficulties associated with maintaining appointments and follow up visits for our patients and we believe is an integral and "necessary for success" part of the entire dental program.

Unlike providers who will not see, or will only see a small number of underserved patients; Kool Smiles uniquely treats patients that each state's SCHIP and Medicaid program aims to serve. This unique mission allows Kool Smiles to serve communities in a pioneering way. Kool Smiles is proud of its work; creating smiles on kids' and parents' faces alike. Kool Smiles' premise of care begins with the assumption that good preventative dental care lasts a lifetime and is more affordable for both the patient and the healthcare system in the long term. We respectfully submit that any decrease of dental coverage for adults not only will lead to higher and compounded medical expenses in the future but will negatively impact our ability to serve their children and solidify a family dental home. For all these reasons we respectfully and strongly request your support of continuing full funding of adult dental coverage.

Thank you for your support.