



## Connecticut State Dental Association

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Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700  
Hartford, CT 06106

### **Re: Budget Cuts**

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express the Connecticut State Dental Association's (CSDA) concern regarding the impact that Governor Malloy's proposed 5.75% across the board cuts to all state agency funding will have on dental health care for thousands of Connecticut's poorest residents.

In 2008, Connecticut increased the reimbursement rates for children on HUSKY, which led to an increase in access to dental care. Currently, children in the Medicaid program can obtain a routine dental appointment within 8 days, and an emergency appointment within 24 hours. Cutting reimbursement rates across the board will impact the number of dental Medicaid providers, and in turn will make it more difficult for children to access dental care.

For adults, the situation is even more stark: Dental care for adults enrolled in the Adult Dental Medicaid program is not as well-funded. While we understand the tough choices that the State is facing as it relates to the budget, the CSDA urges the State not to reduce funding for dental services by the proposed 5.75%, as it will make access to dental care for both children and adults more difficult.

Any form of reduction to the dental Medicaid reimbursement rates will erode the successful program that exists today. Without adequate access to dental care through the Medicaid program, many of Connecticut's poorest residents will seek emergency care for oral conditions in local hospitals. It is far more cost effective, and better for the patient, to treat those issues before they become an emergency. The CSDA urges the legislature to safeguard the success of the HUSKY dental Medicaid program.

As always, we thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

William C. Nash DMD  
President  
Connecticut State Dental Association