

My name is Regina Bogenschutz and I'm a resident of the City of Rutland, Vermont.

My experience with health coverage in Vermont has been horrible with regard to dental care.

There is a lack of dental coverage and this is with my having my health care provided through Medicaid. I struggle with being able to take care of my teeth. There is a dental benefit cap of only \$500.00 with Medicaid and last year I used that in my initial visit to the dentist in October and I had to wait another four months to get a cleaning. This worries me because I have more dental care of which I still am in need. I need dentures to give me teeth in the front of my mouth. There is no coverage for them. This has affected me both physically and emotionally. I also strongly believe this has affected my search for employment in that when I am in an interview, I see the reactions of potential employers when I open my mouth to speak and answer questions.

This is not fair. I worked so hard to get my education and have a B.S.W., a B.A. in Sociology and an Associates in Human Services. I did so in my community so that I could make a difference here. This is impossible for me currently. Poor dental care has severely impacted my quality of life in all areas.

I ask that better dental coverage receive more attention and see changes to better the quality of life for so many Vermonters.