



January 10, 2022

Rep. Mary Hooper, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations (mhooper@leg.state.vt.us)
Rep. Peter Fagan, Vice Chair, House Committee on Appropriations (pfagan@leg.state.vt.us)
Rep. Bill Lippert, Chair, House Committee on Health Care (wlippert@leg.state.vt.us)
Rep. Anne Donahue, Vice Chair, House Committee on Health Care (adonahue@leg.state.vt.us)
Rep. Dave Yacovone, House Committee on Appropriations (DYacovone@leg.state.vt.us)
Rep. Lori Houghton, House Committee on Health Care (LHoughton@leg.state.vt.gov)

Dear Representatives,

On behalf of the Vermont State Dental Society and its nearly 300 active practicing members, I am writing to express very strong support for the proposed increases in Medicaid reimbursements for certain dental services contained in the proposed budget adjustment act from the Department of Vermont Health Access.

Vermonters' access to dental services, including those on Medicaid, is critical to an individual's overall health and well-being. In 2019 the Legislature directed DVHA and the Dental Society to convene a series of stakeholder meetings intended to address the dental Medicaid program and increase patients' access to dental care. A [report](#) and recommendations was issued. Identifying and establishing a reimbursement methodology was a key component and recommendation from this effort, along with annual adjustments to the fees to help make the program more sustainable. The Dental Society recognizes that member participation in the Medicaid program is vital to its success and to meeting the need of Vermonters on Medicaid seeking dental services. The Dental Society made the commitment in 2019 to publicize the efforts of the stakeholder group among its members and continues that commitment today. What has been missing is an appropriation behind this part of the effort. The proposal from DVHA provides that appropriation for certain dental procedures identified by the stakeholder group as most in need of an adjustment. Your support of this proposed appropriation is much appreciated.

As we consider care for Vermonters we serve, this increase and more importantly this process will be another tool to provide access for those most in need.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments, or if I can provide anything further to you as you consider the proposed bill. Thank you again for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Patrick J Gallivan
Executive Director