



February 17, 2021

Chair Liebling and Committee Members,

House File 838 is a critical first step toward improving oral health care in Minnesota and we urge the committee's support. In 2009 the legislature cut the adult dental benefit set in half after a difficult budget year. These cuts have significantly lowered the standard of care and eliminated essential services, including treatment for periodontal disease.

The mouth is an essential part of our overall health and expanding coverage for adult periodontal disease will help improve the health of Minnesotans. Ensuring patients can receive the care that they need may reduce the use of emergency rooms and patients will be able to get the treatment before the issue becomes more complex and expensive to treat. When left untreated, people are at risk for further health issues including increased risk of health disease, stroke, and diabetes.

The Help Minnesota Smile Coalition is made up of 23 organizations that support improving oral health and investing in improving the standard of care. We support this legislation and are asking each of you to do the same.

Thank you we appreciate your support.

Apple Tree Dental

The Arc Minnesota

Community Dental Care

Dental Access Partners

Early Childhood Dental Network

HealthPartners

Hennepin Healthcare

Local Public Health Association

Martin County Early Childhood Dental Network

Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians

Minnesota Council on Disability

Minnesota Association of County Health Plans



Minnesota Board of Dentistry

Minnesota Dental Association

Minnesota Dental Hygiene Association

Minnesota Dental Therapy Association

Minnesota Oral Health Coalition

Minnesota Public Health Association

Park Dental and the Dental Specialists

Southern Heights Dental

UCare