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Letter: Dental proposal is risky business

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To the Editor:

The Minnesota Legislature is considering a bill to allow dentistry to be done by individuals with minimal training done at a non-appropriately accredited dental school.

The effort is an attempt to bring dental care to those that are perceived to be under served.

The bill, which would create a position of “oral health practitioner,” would allow an individual who would complete a two-year training program to perform irreversible procedures (fillings and extractions) without a dentist being present.

This is wrong.

This perceived need could be met in another manner.

The need could be met by creating a position of “dental therapist” performing the same procedures only under the direction and supervision of a dentist on site.

If safety is important to you and having above average dental care is important to you and your family, please contact Sen. Steve Murphy and Rep. Tim Kelly and express your opinion.

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