

DENTAL ACCESS ALLIANCE

AARP MN

June 9, 2009

*Aging Services
of MN*

Unallotment cuts risk forcing patients into costly emergency rooms

*Apple Tree
Dental*

*Minnesota dentists, providers and advocates urge Governor to preserve
oral care*

ARC of MN

St. Paul, Minn. – In a letter from 20 dental organizations, providers and advocates, the Dental Access Alliance urged Governor Pawlenty to preserve dental care for adults on medical assistance and the Critical Access Dental Provider Program (CADPP). The letter warned that the proposed cuts will devastate the oral health of hundreds of thousands of people who rely on Minnesota health care programs and risk sending many to costly emergency rooms for oral health care.

*Blue Cross Blue
Shield MN*

*Care Providers
of MN*

“The state has already cut funding for oral health care by \$18 million, or about 20 percent of the state’s total dental spending, during this past legislative session,” explained Dr. Lee Jess, president of the Minnesota Dental Association. “This is enough. Further cuts to the remaining adult dental benefits of the Critical Access Dental Provider Program will be devastating, and in fact increase state health care spending in the long run.”

HealthPartners

*Legal Services
Advocacy
Project*

According to the Alliance, eliminating adult dental care and the CADPP will force many people into hospital emergency rooms for treatment of their oral pain, rather than the more cost effective use of dental offices. Preventive services through dental office visits will avoid the need for many emergency room visits. Emergency rooms are not set up to treat dental disease; most do not have dentists or oral surgeons on duty and care is far more expensive than care in a dental office.

Medica

*Mid MN Legal
Assistance*

*MN Academy of
General
Dentistry*

Statewide, there are more than 20,000 emergency room visits for dental care each year. That number will dramatically increase if Minnesotans are denied the option to visit a dentist office, where the care is less costly and more comprehensive.

*MN Association
of Community
Health Clinics*

“The governor must not compromise essential oral health care during hard times,” said Jess.

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*MN Consortium
for Citizens*