



Minnesota Dental Association battles cuts to state dental programs for the poor

By Joe Kimball | Published Fri, Mar 5 2010 3:11 pm

Noting that 225,000 Minnesotans received dental care at safety net clinics in 2009 and that the funding for that program — which helps the elderly, those with disabilities and the unemployed — has been dramatically cut this year, the Minnesota Dental Association is urging legislators to restore some of the money.

A well-produced video on the [MDA website](#) shows some of those who've been helped by the program, and what its loss will mean.

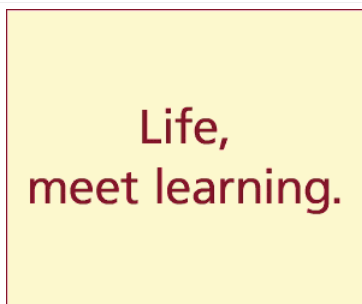
A woman with spina bifida says: "I can't afford to pay for the dentist and what is the state for if they won't help us?"

And notes a dental professional, looking at trays of false teeth of indigent patients needing repair, notes: "If they can't chew, what are we going to ask them eat, mush?"

Other advocacy groups for the poor, people with disabilities and the elderly are also drumming up support to stave off some of the drastic cuts to health and human services that came last year and are currently contemplated to solve the budget deficit.

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