



Connecticut State Dental Association

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CONN. STATE DENTAL ASSOCIATION RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR MALLOY'S BUDGET PLAN

Dental Coverage for Adults on Medicaid Good for State's Overall Health

HARTFORD, CT - The [Connecticut State Dental Association](http://www.CSDA.com) (CSDA) today responded with cautious optimism to the release of Governor Malloy's proposed budget and the impact it will have on dental health care for Connecticut residents.

"While we understand the tough choices that Governor Malloy faced as it relates to the budget, we are pleased that he has chosen to maintain dental coverage for adults on Medicaid," said from Dr. Jon Davis, President of the [Connecticut State Dental Association](http://www.CSDA.com). "Without adult dental Medicaid coverage, many Connecticut citizens will seek emergency care for oral conditions in local hospitals. The treatment of dental emergencies in private offices or public health clinics is far less costly than emergency room services that can run thousands of dollars. It is not in Connecticut's best fiscal interest to cut the adult dental Medicaid funding as it will only increase the cost to the state on the medical side of the equation. This is not a prudent way for families to manage their own budgets – save some money now, but pay even more later – nor is it a prudent way for the State to balance its budget."

According to the CSDA, by keeping non-emergency dental coverage via the Medicaid/SAGA programs whole, the overall health of Connecticut's most vulnerable populations is impacted positively as well.

"Oral healthcare is essential to overall health and well being. Untreated dental diseases such as gingivitis, periodontal disease, and other oral infections may lead to complications associated with heart disease and diabetes. It is important that dental care be made readily available to those who qualify for Medicaid and that adequate funding for those programs continue," said Dr. Davis.

About Connecticut State Dental Association

The Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA) has 2,700 members including dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants. As the trusted leader and voice for oral health care in CT, the CSDA has advocated for the public's health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1864. For more information about the CSDA, visit the Association's Web site at www.csda.com.

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