



Connecticut State Dental Association

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CONNECTICUT STATE DENTAL ASSOCIATION RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR MALLOY'S PLAN B BUDGET

Adult Dental Medicaid Cuts Will Reduce Access to Care and Adversely Impact Overall Health Care

HARTFORD, CT - The [Connecticut State Dental Association](http://www.CSDA.com) (CSDA) today expressed concern regarding the impact that Governor Malloy's proposed Plan B budget will have on dental health care for thousands of Connecticut's poorest residents.

"While we understand that Governor Malloy faces tough choices as it relates to the budget now that negotiations with state employees have broken down, we believe reducing dental coverage for adults on Medicaid to emergency visits will only cost the State more in the long run," said Dr. Jon Davis, President of the [Connecticut State Dental Association](http://www.CSDA.com). "Without regular dental visits covered by Medicaid, many issues that could be alleviated in the dentist's office will result in Connecticut citizens seeking more expensive emergency care 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 the State to balance its budget."

The CSDA expressed additional concern that impeding access to oral care would impact the overall health of Connecticut's most vulnerable populations.

"Oral healthcare is essential to overall health and well being. Untreated dental diseases can lead to other more life threatening illnesses. That's why the CSDA advocates strongly for increased access to dental care for those who qualify for Medicaid and urges that adequate funding for those programs continue," said Dr. Davis.

About Connecticut State Dental Association

The Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA) has approximately 2,670 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.cda.com.

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