A Statement on Gov. Gavin Newsom’s Proposed 2020-21 Budget from the President of the California Dental Association

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Richard Nagy, DDS, is president of the California Dental Association.

“CDA’s 27,000 member dentists applaud the governor’s proposed budget for its continued commitment to rebuilding and improving the state’s Medi-Cal Dental Program and the oral health of Californians. Under Gov. Gavin Newsom’s leadership, thoughtful investments have resulted in increases in utilization of dental services. Over a thousand dental providers throughout the state have newly enrolled to treat Medi-Cal beneficiaries in recent years, reversing a decade-long downward trend and opening access to hundreds of thousands of deserving Californians.

The extension of the Proposition 56 Tobacco Tax funding through June 2023 is a strong commitment to maintaining the momentum gained in improving access to care as envisioned by the voters of the state. Additionally, the Medi-Cal Healthier California for All initiative is funding and solidifying initiatives previously carried out through dental pilot projects that increase delivery of preventive services, create pay-for-performance incentives and promote continuity of care.

CDA supports the administration’s decisions to end the failed dental managed care program. Initiated as a two-county pilot in 1994, dental managed care has faced criticism and concern over utilization for more than a decade. Despite significant attention and investment over the last decade in dental managed care, specifically, and the Medi-Cal Dental Program, generally, utilization continues to lag behind fee-for-service counties.

CDA members applaud the governor’s commitment to increasing access to dental services and improving the oral health of vulnerable Californians. The proposed budget continues to expand access to care and improve the oral health of the nearly 13 million Californians served by this vitally important public health program.”

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About the California Dental Association
The California Dental Association is the nonprofit organization representing organized dentistry in California. Founded in 1870, CDA is committed to the success of our members in service to their patients and the public. CDA also contributes to the oral health of Californians through various comprehensive programs and advocacy. CDA’s membership consists of more than 27,000 dentists, making it the largest constituent of the American Dental Association. For more information, visit cda.org.