California Dental Association Statement on Gov. Gavin Newsom’s May Budget Revision

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The following is a statement from Richard Nagy, DDS, president of the California Dental Association.

“Given the fiscal situation of California, CDA stands ready to work with the governor’s administration and the state Legislature to find sustainable ways to continue supporting critical oral health access programs such as the Medi-Cal Dental Program and the CalHealthCares Student Loan Repayment Program. One of the significant lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic is to not overlook and underfund public health programs, as we know the cost of doing so is tremendous.

While CDA clearly understands the state’s significant budget dilemma, the administration’s proposal to redirect Proposition 56 funding to supplant Medi-Cal costs undermines the will of the voters. Dental practices throughout the state are on the brink of closure due to months of shuttered practices and new costs from increased infection control. Cutting reimbursement rates and eliminating most adult dental benefits will decimate the dental provider network that had been expanding in recent years. A Medi-Cal Dental Program without providers is an empty promise for the millions of Californians who rely on the program to keep them healthy.

With these concerns in mind, CDA will join in advocating for substantial federal relief to ensure the bedrock of our health care systems in California is not destroyed. Having available and supported access to health care in California will be critical to the overall health of many millions of Californians.”

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.