



May 26, 2026

The Honorable John Harabedian
Chair, Joint Committee on Legislative Audit
1020 N Street, Room 107
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Department of Human Resources Dental Benefit Procurement
Audit Request**

Dear Chair Harabedian,

The California Dental Association, representing more than 27,000 dentists throughout the state, strongly supports Senator Dave Cortese's request for an audit of the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) dental benefit procurement processes.

CDA's support reflects our longstanding concerns about the adequacy of dental insurance coverage available to state employees and retirees. Increasingly, dental insurance fails to function as a reliable benefit. Many patients report difficulty finding participating dentists and out of pocket costs for care continue to rise even for those with coverage.

Active and retired state employees have reported significant challenges locating in network providers. At the same time, benefit levels have not kept pace with the cost of care. The State has contracted with Delta Dental to administer dental coverage since 1984, and the maximum annual benefit available to enrollees has remained unchanged over that period.

Senator's Cortese's request of an audit would help determine how CalHR is administering its procurement responsibilities, including compliance with competitive bidding requirements, evaluation of vendor performance, application of selection criteria, and ongoing assessment of whether the benefit structure is meeting the needs of beneficiaries.

CDA joins the California State Retirees to strongly support Senator Cortese's request and would welcome any requests for support or information to facilitate his request. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at any time at (916) 554-5968.

Sincerely,



Eric Dowdy

Sr. Legislative Advocate

cc: Members, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Wesly Opp, Consultant