



**Association of
Critical Access
Dental Providers
of Minnesota**

April 8, 2025

Senator Melissa H. Wiklund, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Delay in Dental Administrator Transition in S.F. 2669

Dear Senator Wiklund and committee members,

The Association of Critical Access Dental Providers of Minnesota (“CAD-MN”) appreciates the opportunity to offer its support for the provision in S.F. 2669 that would delay the state’s transition to a single dental claims administrator by two years (Article 7, Section 2) and respectfully request that the committee include a four-year delay in the final proposal to allow for a more intentional planning and implementation timeline.

By way of background, CAD-MN is a statewide association representing the roughly 300 critical access dental or “CAD” providers across Minnesota. CAD providers have developed clinical models that revolve around the unique needs of the Medical Assistance population. Based on the most recent data we have seen, CAD clinics provide between 66 and 75 percent of all dental visits to the approximately 1.5 million Minnesotans enrolled in Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare.

Today, we are writing to support the language that would delay the state’s looming transition to a single administrative payment model for dental services and work to mitigate the damage that would be done to the dental safety net if the legislature failed to act this session. As the law stands today, CAD providers would see a decrease in their MA reimbursement of up to 44% on some codes as the current law would require the single administrator to pay at the MA fee-for-service rate. CAD clinics would also stand to lose tens of millions in investments in clinical infrastructure, workforce development, and services delivery.

Developing and implementing an alternative administrative model is complicated with significant risks for patients and providers if not carefully executed. CAD-MN is incredibly grateful for the work that Sen. Boldon has done bringing forward her bill, S.F. 1896, to address the complexity of the process. CAD-MN remains concerned about potential harm from a compressed timeline for any transition of this magnitude. Particularly in light of the uncertainty over Medicaid at the federal level, and we hope to see legislators and CAD providers remain at

the forefront of the discussion and would be concerned if too much was left to DHS to determine. That is why CAD-MN respectfully requests the committee consider a four rather than two year delay to ensure that policy makers have time to be intentional and provide a future administrator the time needed to build the requisite infrastructure.

CAD-MN looks forward to working with Chair Wiklund, Sen. Boldon, and others on this issue as the session progresses.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sheila Riggs, DDS
Chair of the Board
Association of Critical Access
Dental Providers of Minnesota