



Association of Critical Access Dental Providers of Minnesota

March 14, 2025

RE: Letter of Support for SF2293

Chair Rest and members of the Senate Tax Committee;

On behalf of the Association of Critical Access Dental Providers of Minnesota (CAD-MN), I am writing to express our strong support for [SF2293](#), a bill that will help the small but essential network of critical access dental providers to recruit and retain qualified employees to serve publicly insured Minnesotans across our State.

In 2001 the Minnesota Legislature directed the Department of Human Services (DHS) to designate “critical access dental providers” serving Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP or Medicaid/Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare) enrollees. The goal has been to stabilize access to care for publicly insured Minnesotans. DHS identifies dental offices and clinics throughout the state that serve as essential resources of dental care for this population. These critical access dental providers (CAD Providers) include private dental offices in rural and urban areas of the state, as well as non-profit clinics and county hospital clinics. These clinics have historically struggled with recruiting and retaining staff, particularly in Greater Minnesota settings.

This bill would allow dentists or dental clinics designated as critical access dental providers by the Department of Human Services to assist dental professional employees with student loans, without that amount being subject to income taxes. Dentistry is experiencing severe workforce shortages, especially for ‘safety-net’ providers. When recruiting and retaining staff, CAD providers are often unable to compete with dental practices not serving Medicaid. By being able to offer this incentive, our clinics will have another tool in place to keep talent helping low income Minnesotans and Minnesotans at risk of being in dental deserts.

Please reach out to Zack Eichten at Zack.Eichten@taftadvisors.com if we can provide further information in support of this important bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheila Riggs DDS, DMSc
Chair, Dept of Primary Dental Care
University of Minnesota
Chair, Association of Critical Access Dental Providers of MN