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Sept. 2, 2014

Susie Dade, MPA,
Deputy Director – Washington Health Alliance
Chair – Prevention Measures Technical Workgroup
600 Stewart St #824
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Ms. Dade,

The Washington State Oral Health Coalition (WSOHC) strongly supports the inclusion of an oral health measure on the final list of recommendations to the full Performance Measures Coordinating Committee from the Prevention Measures Technical Workgroup.

Although the criteria for such recommendations are rigorous, the Coalition feels that inclusion of a measure establishing *Primary Caries Prevention/Intervention as a Required Element of the Well Child Care Visit Offered by Primary Care Medical Providers* would address the three fundamental goals of the Coordinating Committee's work: improving quality of care, increasing efficiency of the delivery system, and reducing cost. Through defining a key performance measure that can be tracked, this measure provides a further iteration of the important relationship of oral health to overall health which is critical to real health care reform.

Copied below and attached is the Coalition's letter of appreciation to Gov. Inslee for his appointment of oral health advocate and past WSOHC chair, Dr. Mark Koday, DDS, to the Prevention Measures Technical Workgroup.

Best regards,

Pat Brown, Acting Secretary
Washington State Oral Health Coalition

Washington State Oral Health Coalition
— founded 1993 --
promoting and advocating for optimal oral health for all Washington State residents.

July 7, 2014

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the *Governor*
PO Box 40002.
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

Thank you for recognizing the important relationship between oral health and overall health with your appointment of Dr. Mark Koday, DDS, to the Prevention Measures Technical Workgroup. His appointment marks an important step forward in establishing this relationship as vital to developing the state's health care service delivery model.

Given the understanding that the mouth offers a snapshot of a person's physical health, including dental expertise is crucial in the search for strategies to improve our health care delivery system, contain costs, assure value, and foster a healthier Washington. Leading Health Indicators for Healthy People 2020, Oral Health, states, "A growing body of evidence has linked oral health, particularly periodontal (gum) disease, to several chronic diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, and stroke." (<http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/LHI/oralHealth.aspx>) Hours lost to unsolved dental issues affect the overall health of individuals, their education, and their employment. Dental caries ranks first among frequently occurring childhood diseases (Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health 2000). It is more frequent than asthma. In addition, existing data show that untreated dental crises are one of the most frequent reasons for child and adult Emergency Room visits statewide.

For these reasons, we are especially grateful for Dr. Koday's inclusion on the Prevention Measures Technical Workgroup and the promise his appointment holds for making oral health care a part of the big picture for effective health care reform in Washington State.

Best regards,

Washington State Oral Health Coalition
Pat Brown, Acting Secretary, 425-967-7992

cc: Dorothy Teeter, Director, Washington State Health Care Authority
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