



January 12, 2009

The Honorable Curt Hagman  
State Capitol Building, Room 4098  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblyman Hagman,

The Governor recently proposed diverting 50 percent of local funding for children's programs in our community. *Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County* is a recipient of these funds in Orange County. The funds are voter approved resources, Proposition 10, designed to meet the needs of children under age 5 in local communities.

Dental disease is the single most common, chronic, transmissible and preventable childhood disease. Orange County has a higher rate of decay than the state as a whole. Thirty-three percent of our Kindergarten children have untreated decay. Healthy Smiles and The Children and Families Commission have partnered to address this epidemic by assisting families to ensure that their young children remain cavity free and treating those with decay immediately. No child should begin kindergarten in pain.

As you know, Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County provides comprehensive oral health treatment and prevention services in the community, at school sites and at our central facility in Garden Grove. We are the only safety-net source in the County for treating young children in need of restorative and rehabilitative dental treatment which requires the use of advanced sedation. Prior to our establishment by The Children & Families Commission, children with in need of this type of care were forced to wait up to two years for treatment. Today, children with complex and severe dental treatment needs are diagnosed and treated within three months. Our ability to address this critical gap in children's oral health is due entirely to the vision and support of the Commission.

In addition, with the support of The Children & Families Commission and the collaboration of community dental providers we have: increased the dental workforce for pediatric dentists treating underserved children at the community clinics; extended the reach of preventative services provided

*BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS*

GARY VAN ARNAM

RICHARD MUNGO,  
DDS

ERIC FELDHAUS

DONALD MURRAY

DOTTIE ANDREWS

NAM KY LAM, MD

LIZ DUNNE

NANCY RIMSHA

GWYN P. PARRY, MD

MAGGIE  
RODRIQUEZ

MANUEL PORTO, MD

PAT HALBERSTADT

JACK SHAW,  
emeritus

Sandra Bolton, RN  
*Executive Director*

ORAL HEALTH  
MATTERS!

to at-risk children and; expanded the capacity and resources of dental treatment services available to uninsured and underinsured children.

While we understand the need to responsibly balance the state budget, we strongly oppose it being done on the backs of children and their families. The programs funded by Proposition 10, including the program described in this letter, fill gaps in the system and provide critical services otherwise not offered. The needs of many of the children served by Proposition 10 funding would go neglected or be greatly diminished if these local funds were eliminated.

We know you share our concern and commitment to the children of California. Therefore we urge you to oppose any attempt to eliminate or divert Proposition 10 funding at the local level.

We appreciate being able to express our concern, and thank you for your consideration of our request. Thank you for attending the Endless Summer, Endless Smiles event in September!

Sincerely,

Sandra Bolton, RN, JD  
Executive Director  
Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County

Gary Van Arnam  
Chairman  
Board of Directors  
Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County

