



August 27, 2018

To: Healthcare Committee and
Chairperson, Senator Spearman

From: Dr. Patricia Prada, Board Certified Pediatric Dentist

Re: Public Comment to Committee today, August 27, 2018

Good morning everyone.

My name is Patricia Prada. I am a practicing pediatric dentist for the last 25 years and graduated from New York University College of Dentistry in 1990. Following a General Practice Residency at Mount Sinai Hospital, I completed my specialty in Pediatric Dentistry at NYU in 1993. I have been a board certified pediatric dentist for 17 years. I was the first female board certified pediatric dentist in the State of Nevada. I have been practicing in Las Vegas for the last 15 years with Absolute Dental.

Our role as pediatric dentists is to prevent dental caries, maintain oral health, restore the oral health of children and to treat children that cannot be treated by a general dentist due to their young age, poor behavior or mental and physical disabilities that can only be treated properly under general anesthesia at a surgery center or hospital.

Children that suffer from a tooth ache can develop a life threatening infection, cannot eat properly, cannot concentrate at school, cannot sleep well and cannot interact with other children. They suffer in silence.

I am here to speak up on behalf of those who cannot speak up for themselves, the children, yes our future, the ones that will take care of us as we get older.

The State has cut the Medicaid surgery center reimbursement for dental surgery in half. I want to emphasize that this is an access to care problem for poor and handicapped children and this is also pouring over into an access to care issue for other children as well. For example, Sahara



Surgery Center will not see any more dental cases due to poor reimbursement by Medicaid for dental cases. Therefore, the other surgery centers are limited the days and providers and slowly closing their doors to dental cases. Since then instead of referring a child to the hospital once in a while, now I am referring every week.

It is important to understand that this cut does not affect our dental reimbursement rates at all but rather it affects the ability of children to be treated in the best and safest manner due to their health or behavioral condition.

Options are:

To reverse the fee reduction by addressing this in the budget.

Go to the hospital which costs the State 10 times more; dental cases in the hospital are canceled if other more life threatening cases come up.

To do nothing is not an option for children with pain and special needs.

Thank you Senator Spearman