

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT

Committee on Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services.

HB22-1292 be amended as follows:

- 1 Amend printed bill, page 2, after line 1 insert:
2 "SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact,**
3 **with amendments,** 25-23-101 as follows:
4 **25-23-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
5 HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
6 (a) AS RESOLVED IN THE 2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, CHILDREN'S
7 ORAL HEALTH REMAINS A PRIORITY FOR HEALTH EQUITY IN COLORADO;
8 (b) ORAL HEALTH EQUITY FOR CHILDREN CAN BE ADVANCED BY
9 IMPROVED ACCESS TO CARE, BUT ALSO THROUGH EVIDENCED-BASED
10 PREVENTION ACTIVITIES;
11 (c) DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS ARE CRITICAL PARTNERS
12 IN ADDRESSING THE ORAL HEALTH-CARE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND
13 UNDERSERVED COLORADANS IN RURAL AND LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES;
14 (d) HOWEVER, COLORADO COMMUNITIES OFTEN ENCOUNTER
15 DIFFICULTY RECRUITING AND RETAINING DENTAL PROFESSIONALS TO
16 SERVE THESE COMMUNITIES;
17 (e) MANY DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, PARTICULARLY
18 DENTISTS, GRADUATE WITH LARGE EDUCATION LOANS NEEDED TO FINANCE
19 THEIR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION;
20 (f) FURTHER, DENTAL CARE IS PROVIDED PREDOMINANTLY
21 THROUGH INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL GROUP PRACTICES, WHICH CAN LIMIT
22 THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO PROVIDE A
23 SUBSTANTIAL VOLUME OF ORAL HEALTH SERVICES AT REDUCED COST WHILE
24 STILL MAINTAINING REVENUES NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE FIXED COSTS
25 OF OPERATING A DENTAL PRACTICE;
26 (g) WHEN PARTNERED WITH THE STATE, DENTAL HEALTH
27 PROFESSIONALS PROVIDE ACCESS TO ORAL CARE FOR PEOPLE IN NEED OF
28 SERVICES, AND REDUCING THE EDUCATION LOAN DEBT OF THESE
29 PROFESSIONALS ENSURES THEY HAVE MORE RESOURCES TO CARE FOR
30 UNDERSERVED CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES; AND
31 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT
32 COLORADO WILL CONTINUE ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO
33 DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WHO REQUEST EDUCATION LOAN
34 REPAYMENT AND TO ALSO USE FUNDS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S ORAL
35 HEALTH THROUGH COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS."
36 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

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