

Legislative Testimony 6 Feb 2018: Dr. Rich Call

- Clinical Professor, University of Colorado School of Dentistry,
- Member Board of Trustees, Delta Dental of Colorado, whose mission it is to improve the oral health of Colorado
- Member, Board of Directors, Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, whose mission is to improve oral health equity in Colorado.

Disease Issues

Dental caries - that process which makes cavities - is the most common childhood illness - 5x more common than asthma

- 42% of head start children in Colorado
- 40% of kindergarteners in Colorado
- over 57% of third graders have cavities
- Disproportionally effects Hispanic (58%) and Blacks (38%) vs whites (32%)
- Disproportionally effects the poor among us (53% vs 23%)

Access issues:

- 55 of Colorado's 64 counties had a licensed dentist.
- 47 of Colorado's 64 counties had an actively enrolled Medicaid dental provider at least one day during the federal fiscal year 2009-2010.
- Colorado's oral health workforce comprises 3,570 active licensed dentists and
- nearly as many active licensed dental hygienists (3,270)
- We potentially double the access to care with this legislation

Financial Issues

Here's the financial impact of this - these are the numbers we need to keep in mind:

- Children's Hospital: \$15,000 per child - and over 3,000 a year
- Private dental office: about \$3,750 basic care
- Silver Diamine Fluoride by RDH: About \$38
- ✓ less than the cost of gas to drive from Julesburg to closest pediatric dentist in Ft. Morgan.

Jacobo (2004 version of Count of Monte Cristo): "... How is this a bad plan?"

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