

2010 Legislative Priorities

Personal Oral Healthcare and Nutrition

The Vermont State Dental Society (VSDS) supports policies and programs that advance personal oral health care and healthy nutrition practices, both of which will lead to improved oral and general health.

Access to Professional Oral Care

The VSDS is dedicated to ensuring that all Vermonters receive high quality dental care. Vermont is ranked among the top states in the nation in providing dental services to low-income children and adults, thanks to the commitment to access on the part of Vermont dentists. The VSDS supports enhancing the capacities and continuing the missions of the state's diverse dental facilities in order to safeguard and expand access to oral health for all Vermonters.

Adult Medicaid Dental Benefits

The VSDS continues to support completion of the "Dental Dozen," a three-year plan to improve the oral health of Vermont's most vulnerable citizens. VSDS is opposed to reductions in the Adult Medicaid Dental Program.

The VSDS recommends an enhanced dental benefit plan for low-income pregnant women and nursing mothers, in order to improve the health of mothers and also reduce the incidence of Early Childhood Caries in the most vulnerable of Vermont's young children.

Dental Provider Reimbursements

Private practices provide 80% of the dental care to Vermonters on Medicaid, yet reimbursement for their care is less than what some other dental practices receive for the same services. VSDS supports increasing Medicaid reimbursements with a goal of eventually reaching full and equal reimbursements for all dental care settings, enabling Vermont's at-risk residents to receive care.

Dental Workforce

VSDS is committed to ensuring that Vermont has a sufficient number of dental professionals working statewide to meet the oral health needs of Vermonters now and in the future. The VSDS seeks legislative support of this effort by restoring funding to the Vermont Health Professions Loan Repayment Program.

Health Care Reform

When the legislature considers its health care reform options, we recommend that the oral health programs for low income Vermonters receive the highest priority.

The VSDS supports an increase in the availability of employer-sponsored dental benefits programs and an increase in funding for dental benefits in state assistance programs, so that more Vermonters have access to oral health care and prevention.

Dental Amalgam

The VSDS supports the unrestricted availability of dental amalgam as one of several dental restorative options for Vermonters. In August 2009, based on an intensive review of the scientific record, the FDA placed no restrictions on the use of dental amalgam.

Community Water Fluoridation

The CDC has called community water fluoridation one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20th century. VSDS supports community water fluoridation and its availability for all Vermonters.



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