



October 1, 2014

Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
And members of
Health Services Committee
ND State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

Re: Oral Health Action Plan

Dear Senator Lee:

The North Dakota Oral Health Coalition is an organization formulated to provide leadership in promoting sound oral health policy, increase awareness of oral health issues and assist in the development and promotion of oral health issues. It was formed in 2005 as a statewide coalition with membership of varied individuals and agencies and allied medical fields with common interest in oral health issues of North Dakota.

At a recent meeting of the North Dakota Oral Health Coalition the members voted to support and pursue five areas of oral health initiatives for the coming years. The areas which were recommended to be brought for support by the legislature are:

- Expand the Seal! ND Program through the ND State Department of Health Oral Health programs to target low income children at public schools
- Expand funding for dental safety net clinics to include mobile, non-profit and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's)
- Expand, simplify and consolidate the North Dakota Dental Loan Repayment Programs
- Provide funding for the Case Management Outreach model supported through the North Dakota State Department of Health and the North Dakota Dental Association
- Facilitate the expansion of duties for dental assistants and hygienists through innovative, non-traditional, outreach education programs to minimize geographic and employment barriers for the current workforce

Funding costs and some strategies for these areas were discussed at the coalition meeting and additional data could be provided on request.

We would urge the support of the Health Services Committee to move these projects forward. Coalition members would be willing to assist in these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcia Olson".

Marcia Olson

President

ND Oral Health Coalition