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August 29, 2023

Adrianna Alcala-Beshara, JD, MBA  
Chief, Medi-Cal Dental Services Division  
1501 Capitol Avenue, 6th Floor, Mail Stop 4200  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Alcala-Beshara,

This letter demonstrates the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors' support for LIBERTY Dental Plan's proposal to continue delivering dental benefits to Medi-Cal members in Sacramento County through the State's Dental Managed Care Program. LIBERTY has been an important partner and strong oral health champion in Sacramento County, particularly for our most under-resourced communities.

LIBERTY has emerged as a leader in the County, investing significant resources to increase the utilization of dental benefits by Medi-Cal members and to improve the oral health outcomes of all residents of Sacramento County. LIBERTY has been instrumental in the development, implementation, and sustainability of Sacramento County's Early Smiles Program, a school-based screening program that provides oral health screenings, fluoride varnish application, and dental home navigation to students in high-need schools across 15 school districts. As a result of LIBERTY's involvement, since its inception in 2016, Early Smiles Sacramento has provided oral health assessment to an additional 104,000 students and delivered oral health education to nearly 91,000 students during the 2023 program year alone. This resulted in significantly improved oral health outcomes including a reduction in the rate of children in need of urgent dental treatment from 7% in fiscal year 2017 to 1% in fiscal year 2022.

LIBERTY has been a leader in supporting innovation in Sacramento County, including through supporting the Medical Dental Referral and Navigation System (MDRAN), which facilitates school- and community-based referrals to dental care. A long-time challenge of medical providers, school nurses, and community-based organizations who serve Medi-Cal members has been locating the dental plan and provider assigned to Medi-Cal member. LIBERTY's investment in MDRAN and continued support of this tool has served as a significant investment towards achieving high-quality care for the Medi-Cal program and its recipient. MDRAN is a tool that not only allows these stakeholders to easily find that information for a Medi-Cal member, but to also submit a referral back quickly to the care coordination team for each Medi-Cal dental

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managed care plan to provide appointment assistance and help to address any barriers to care. In 2022, 77% of all referrals and 57% of referrals for those who have not utilized their dental benefit in the past year resulted in a dental visit.

In addition to the outreach and education efforts provided through Early Smiles Sacramento and MDRAN, LIBERTY Dental has continued to have a strong presence at community events, such as health fairs and back-to-school events, providing support through community-based oral health education, oral health screenings, and dental hygiene kit distributions at health fairs. In 2022 alone, LIBERTY participated in over 275 events and are on track to surpass that number in 2023. LIBERTY understands how to engage with community partners; they have partnered with a range of groups, including the International Rescue Committee, Black Child Legacy Campaign, Asian Resources, Inc., Alta California Regional Center, Sacramento Children's Home, Greater Sacramento Urban League, Mexican Consulate, South Sacramento Christian Center, Stockton Boulevard Partnership, and Folsom-Cordova Community Partnership, among others. As part of our community outreach efforts, LIBERTY has continued to expand the number of partnerships with community-based organizations that served Medi-Cal members in Sacramento County, including developing partnerships to provide outreach clients of the Sacramento LGBT Center and to the unhoused community through Safe Stays and the Next Move Family Shelter.

LIBERTY Dental Plan has and continues to demonstrate their commitment to serving Medi-Cal members in the Sacramento community. For these reasons, Sacramento County supports LIBERTY's proposal to continue to administer dental benefits to Medi-Cal members. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or [deborde@saccounty.gov](mailto:deborde@saccounty.gov).

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord  
Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Chair and Members, Board of Supervisors  
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies