

Senator Bernie Sanders - "The Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2012"

This bill covers five main components aimed at ending the oral health crisis in America by expanding coverage, creating new access points, enhancing the workforce, improving education, and funding new research.

Coverage: *This bill extends comprehensive dental health insurance to millions of Americans who do not have coverage today.*

- Extends comprehensive coverage to all Medicare, Medicaid, and VA beneficiaries
- Allows States to be eligible for an enhanced FMAP (10% increase) for dental services under Medicaid if they meet requirements to address provider participation and patient utilization
- Coverage expansion is paid for by enacting a modest financial transactions tax of two and a half pennies on each \$100

Access Points: *This bill ensures that there are more places you and your family can go to access a qualified oral health care professional to get the care you need.*

- Increases funding for oral health services for clinics such as Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Increases funding for school-based dental services
- Authorizes new funding for mobile and portable services and outreach in rural communities
- Creates an emergency room care coordination grants program to enable individuals to receive dental care in clinics rather than in emergency room settings
- Provides funding for case management grants programs to identify people in need of dental care, match providers with those requiring care, provide community oral health education, arrange transportation for dental appointments, and coordinate pro bono services

Workforce: *This bill uses multiple strategies to increase the number of oral health professionals, including those who will work in communities with the greatest need.*

- Authorizes emergency funding for additional National Health Service Corps scholarships to recruit and support dentists, dental therapists, and dental hygienists to provide care to underserved communities upon graduation
- Creates an oral health professional student loan program
- Creates incentive for increased reimbursement rates under Medicaid to encourage greater provider participation
- Creates new demo programs for the training and employment of alternative dental health care providers (Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, Bureau of Prisons, Indian Health Service)

Education: *This bill addresses the need to educate current and future oral health care providers to better serve vulnerable populations and to integrate oral health care into overall health care.*

- Authorizes additional funding for programs to educate non-dental health professionals about oral health to encourage the integration of oral health care into overall health care
- Requires that dental schools accepting any federal funding meet criteria designed to prepare students to meet the needs of diverse and underserved populations

Research: *This bill authorizes funding for research on prevention and disease management to improve oral health care delivery and the oral health status of our country.*

- Authorizes additional federal funding for oral health research and evaluation related to the care and needs of underserved and vulnerable populations

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