



October 13, 2010

Dear Friends:

Have you heard about the changes being implemented in the Idaho Smiles dental program beginning November 1, 2010? While many states across the U.S. are cutting Medicaid dental benefits as one way to battle their budget crises, Idaho has turned over this task to DentaQuest, the for-profit company that administers the Idaho Smiles dental benefits.

DentaQuest has recently notified many dentists including pediatric dentists, oral surgeons and other dental specialists in our area that many of them will not be allowed to continue to see patients with Idaho Smiles insurance. Some of these dental professionals are the only providers in their specialty who open their offices to Idaho Smiles patients.

Some of the dentists who are still able to provide care to Idaho Smiles patients may be forced to severely limit the number of Idaho Smiles patients to whom they can provide services.

As a parent or guardian of a child with Idaho Smiles, consider the effect these changes will have on the children in Idaho. Many of the dentists in our area will not be able to see patients with Idaho Smiles insurance. Not only will it be very difficult for you to find appointments to receive quality care, it may be impossible to find a dentist who can provide specialized services such as oral surgery, sedation and treatment for special needs patients.

Please, take a few minutes out of your day to call and email legislators and state officials responsible for caring for the health and welfare of the citizens of Idaho. They need to hear about the concerns you have regarding your access to quality dental care. You can make a difference!

Representatives

Sharon L. Block  
Chair, Health & Welfare Committee  
208.734.6360

George C. Saylor  
Representative, District 4  
208.664.2787

Idaho Health & Welfare Office

Richard Armstrong  
Director, Idaho Health & Welfare  
208.334.5500

Leslie Clement  
Medicaid Administrator  
208.334.5747

You may also share your thoughts with Governor Otter's office by email by typing [http://gov.idaho.gov/WebRespond/contact\\_form.html](http://gov.idaho.gov/WebRespond/contact_form.html) into your web browser.

Please visit our website for news and internet links to websites tracking these issues. And as always, call our office if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Bradley S. Barlow, DDS