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California State Senate

SENATOR
DR. RICHARD PAN
SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT &
RETIREMENT

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE

BUDGET & FISCAL
REVIEW

EDUCATION

HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE:
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE 4

April 6, 2015

Honorable Pedro Nava
Chairman
Little Hoover Commission
925 L Street, Suite 805
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Nava:

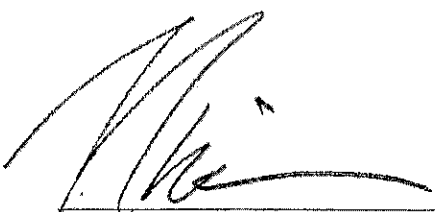
Last December, the State Auditor released a report on the state's Denti-Cal program that found both poor access to dental care for Denti-Cal beneficiaries and inadequate oversight by the Department of Health Care Services. The Denti-Cal program serves more than five million low-income children in California. It is unacceptable that Denti-Cal's "shortcomings and ineffective actions are putting child beneficiaries at higher risk of dental disease."

On March 17, 2015, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and the Senate and Assembly Health Committees held an information hearing on Denti-Cal which included the Director of DHCS, yet DHCS offered few specific actions to resolve the problems identified in the Auditor's report. The Auditor's report also demonstrated a lack of oversight and attention by DHCS to Denti-Cal, including poor enforcement of contract provisions with Delta Dental, the contractor managing the program.

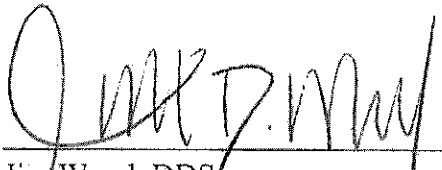
The Little Hoover Commission has been a valuable resource that has consistently delivered important data to provide a thorough analysis of the various programs throughout the state. We respectfully request that the Little Hoover Commission undertake a review of the Denti-Cal program and identify the necessary steps to assure this vital program meets its purpose to provide access to dental care for many of the most vulnerable Californians including children. Your report will help guide the legislature as we work to hold DHCS accountable to both Denti-Cal beneficiaries and the public.

Your favorable consideration is deeply appreciated. Millions of low-income Californians on Denti-Cal are suffering because the promise of dental coverage by the state is not being fulfilled by Denti-Cal. Please contact my office at 916-651-4006 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard Pan
California State Senate, 6th District



Jim Wood, DDS
California State Assembly, 2nd District