



We are writing to you today to respectfully urge your support to restore funding for adult emergency dental coverage contained in Governor Haley's budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year. Additionally, we respectfully request consideration of basic preventative dental coverage for adults if revenues allow.

Kool Smiles on December 22, 2006 opened one office in South Carolina, in Sumter and has since opened 7 additional offices in Anderson (2), Charleston, Columbia, Greenville (2) and Orangeburg. We have made a significant investment on these state of the art dental facilities and have created 101 new positions to South Carolina's employment rolls from dentists to hygienists and office support personnel.

Kool Smiles was founded in 2002 to align with the CHIP and Medicaid vision of providing high quality dental care to children who might not otherwise have access. Because of several positive factors associated with providing a dental home for children we changed our practice model to include adult coverage. Providing dental care to our children's parents and guardians as well as other adults fits perfectly with South Carolina's goal of providing care for families. This family concept addresses the issues of the difficulties associated with maintaining appointments and follow up visits for our patients and we believe is an integral and "necessary for success" part of the entire dental program. At a minimum, if a parent does not regularly go to the dentist, knowing they can go to their child's dental home (instead of the emergency room), when a dental emergency occurs has great value for all stakeholders.

Unlike providers who will not see, or will only see a small number of underserved patients; Kool Smiles uniquely treats patients that each state's CHIP and Medicaid program aims to serve. This unique mission allows Kool Smiles to serve communities in a pioneering way. Kool Smiles is proud of its work; creating smiles on kids' and parents' faces alike. Kool Smiles' premise of care begins with the assumption that good preventative dental care lasts a lifetime and is more affordable for both the patient and the healthcare system in the long term. We respectfully submit that dental coverage for adults not only will avoid higher and compounded medical expenses in the future but also positively impact our ability to serve their children and solidify a family dental home. For all these reasons we respectfully and strongly request your support of funding of adult dental coverage.

Thank you for your support.