



Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee

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56th Montana Legislature

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Laurie Ekanger, Director
Department of Public Health and Human Services
111 N. Sanders
Helena MT 59620-4210

Dear Director Ekanger:

On August 17, 2000, the Children and Families, Health, and Human Services Legislative Interim Committee received the Montana Dental Action Plan from the Montana Dental Access Coalition. The Committee has supported and participated in the activities of the Coalition and wishes to make recommendations to you based on this work.

The Committee urges the Department of Public Health and Human Services to continue to seek prevention funds for dental and health education and screenings in schools. The Committee sees this as an appropriate use of the tobacco use prevention funds. The Committee believes that there are interrelated issues with the use of tobacco and oral health and efficiencies to be realized in coordinating dental screenings and dental and health education and prevention. We ask you to coordinate these efforts wherever possible within the various dental and health programs and to dedicate a portion of the tobacco use prevention funds to dental health.

Sincerely,

Senator Mignon Waterman, Presiding Officer

cc: Governor Marc Racicot
Linda Lee, Chair, Governor's Advisory Council on Tobacco Use Prevention
Cheri Seed, State Dental Health Consultant, DPHHS
Jan Lombardi, Interagency Coordinating Council for State Prevention Programs

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