



MISSOURI DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
 Advocacy. Education. Leadership. Since 1865.

The Missouri Dental Association is working at the Capitol **to bring positive change to the state's Medicaid program.** We regularly hear complaints from members about the complications of the current system. That is why we are supporting the establishment of a **"Dental Carve Out."**

*While we have talked about a Carve Out for a number of years, many still have questions about how the system would work.*

**CARVE OUT**

A Dental Carve Out would end the current complicated system and ensure that more tax dollars go toward patient care and fewer go toward program administration.

With this arrangement, money for dental Medicaid services would be "carved out" of the Medicaid budget. These funds would go directly to a single Dental Managed Care company that develops a network of dentists to provide services to patients in all **114 counties in Missouri.**

Carve Out would not only streamline the Medicaid billing operations in your office, it also would expand the number of dental providers in the state. As well, administration would also be greatly simplified because there would be a single set of rules that would apply to all patients and providers across the state — without adding money to the state budget.

**CARVE OUT SUCCESS STORIES**

Sixteen states, including Tennessee and Kansas, have implemented a Dental Carve Out. In Kansas, after establishing a Dental Carve Out in 1998, the number of eligible children receiving an annual Medicaid dental visit went from 24,855 to 54,362 by 2003 — a nearly 119 percent increase.

Every state that has implemented this type of program has seen an increase in provider participation and utilization.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

While we are working to improve the system, companies that we believe are making money administering this antiquated system are lobbying legislators and dentists to stop this change. *It is important that legislators hear from you.*

**Please forward the attached postcards to your legislator. Let them know you support improving Medicaid through a Dental Carve Out.**

You can learn more about the current system and Carve Out by visiting the MDA Web site at [www.modental.org/session](http://www.modental.org/session).

**Dear Senator,**

As a dental professional, I believe in improving Missouri's Medicaid system and expanding access for patients in need of proper dental care.

That is why **I support establishing a Dental Carve Out in Missouri.**

Carve Out allows a single Dental Managed Care company to govern the program under a single set of rules — thus simplifying administration and expanding the number of participating dental providers.

All 16 states that have executed a Dental Carve Out have seen an increase in provider participation and utilization all **without adding money to the state budget.** For example, after Kansas established a Carve Out in 1998, the number of eligible children receiving an annual Medicaid dental visit went from 24,855 to 54,362 by 2003 — a nearly 119 percent increase.

I respectfully ask that during this legislative session, **you support HB 2123 — a Dental Carve Out,** which will provide better access to critical dental care to children in need in your district.

Sincerely,  
**Dr.**



**Dear Representative,**

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Improve Patient Access to Dental Care  
SUPPORT A DENTAL CARVE OUT



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