

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

March 18, 2022

Chair of Committee

Date

Committee on Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB22-1292 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

- 1 Amend printed bill, page 2, after line 1 insert:
2 "SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact,**
3 **with amendments,** 25-23-101 as follows:
4 **25-23-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
5 HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
6 (a) AS RESOLVED IN THE 2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, CHILDREN'S
7 ORAL HEALTH REMAINS A PRIORITY FOR HEALTH EQUITY IN COLORADO;
8 (b) ORAL HEALTH EQUITY FOR CHILDREN CAN BE ADVANCED BY
9 IMPROVED ACCESS TO CARE, BUT ALSO THROUGH EVIDENCED-BASED
10 PREVENTION ACTIVITIES;
11 (c) DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS ARE CRITICAL PARTNERS
12 IN ADDRESSING THE ORAL HEALTH-CARE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND
13 UNDERSERVED COLORADANS IN RURAL AND LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES;
14 (d) HOWEVER, COLORADO COMMUNITIES OFTEN ENCOUNTER
15 DIFFICULTY RECRUITING AND RETAINING DENTAL PROFESSIONALS TO
16 SERVE THESE COMMUNITIES;
17 (e) MANY DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, PARTICULARLY
18 DENTISTS, GRADUATE WITH LARGE EDUCATION LOANS NEEDED TO FINANCE
19 THEIR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION;
20 (f) FURTHER, DENTAL CARE IS PROVIDED PREDOMINANTLY
21 THROUGH INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL GROUP PRACTICES, WHICH CAN LIMIT
22 THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO PROVIDE A
23 SUBSTANTIAL VOLUME OF ORAL HEALTH SERVICES AT REDUCED COST WHILE
24 STILL MAINTAINING REVENUES NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE FIXED COSTS
25 OF OPERATING A DENTAL PRACTICE;
26 (g) WHEN PARTNERED WITH THE STATE, DENTAL HEALTH
27 PROFESSIONALS PROVIDE ACCESS TO ORAL CARE FOR PEOPLE IN NEED OF
28 SERVICES, AND REDUCING THE EDUCATION LOAN DEBT OF THESE

1 PROFESSIONALS ENSURES THEY HAVE MORE RESOURCES TO CARE FOR
2 UNDERSERVED CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES; AND

3 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT
4 COLORADO WILL CONTINUE ITS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO
5 DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WHO REQUEST EDUCATION LOAN
6 REPAYMENT AND TO ALSO USE FUNDS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S ORAL
7 HEALTH THROUGH COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS."

8 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

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