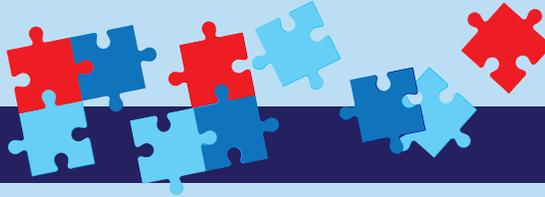




## ORAL HEALTH IN MICHIGAN

Expanding Public Health Hygiene (PA 161) Isn't Enough

### Public Act 161



### MISSING PIECES

In 2005, Michigan enacted **Public Act 161** allowing public, nonprofit entities, schools, and nursing homes to operate a program to provide preventive dental care.

Currently the programs must have at least one registered dental hygienist (RDH) and one dentist, operating under a collaborative agreement. The RDH may perform preventive procedures such as cleaning, application of fluoride and/or dental sealants, nutritional counseling and patient education with minimal supervision.

While prevention is crucial to oral health, **AMENDING PA 161 WILL DO NOTHING** to increase access to the most **COMMONLY NEEDED RESTORATIVE CARE**.

### MORE THAN PREVENTION NEEDED

From the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services 2016 Survey of **PA 161 PROGRAMS**:

**"PA 161 programs are not able to provide the necessary comprehensive dental services** many children urgently need and urgent referral resources (nearby dental safety net locations) commonly have long wait times for appointments or have limited availability to provide necessary dental treatment. PA 161 programs have identified common difficulties in determining local dentists with capacity/willingness to accept patient referrals, as well as ensuring necessary dental care has been completed for the children that were referred."

### DENTAL THERAPISTS ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Adding DTs to care teams could:

- **INCREASE ACCESS** to immediate restorative care
- **CUT DOWN** on **WAIT LISTS** for restorative care
- **REDUCE EMERGENCY ROOM** utilization for dental care
- **REDUCE** number of **SCHOOL DAYS MISSED** for children in need of dental care
- **REDUCE TRAVEL TIME** for patients needing restorative care



To learn more about how dental therapists can help provide access to care visit [MIDentalAccess.org](http://MIDentalAccess.org).

The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health (MCMCH) is partnering with other statewide organizations to improve oral health and access to dental care in Michigan by promoting evidence-based, cost-effective policy solutions. To contact us, please email [info@midentalaccess.org](mailto:info@midentalaccess.org) or call 517-482-5807.