ORAL HEALTH IN MICHIGAN

Despite efforts, significant needs exist

Fewer Michigan residents are receiving dental care

- Adults not visiting a dentist in the prior year increased 14% from 2010 to 2014
- Preventable dental care provided to children in operating room visits cost $7.9 million in 2011
- 32% of Michigan’s residents lacked dental insurance in 2015
- 1 in 4 third graders had untreated dental disease

Seniors, pregnant women, low-income children and other special populations are at risk for poor oral health outcomes

- 63% of third-graders in the UP had a history of dental decay compared to 54% north of Clare
- Third-grade children in Detroit in need of immediate dental care is 2 times higher than the rate of children in need of care statewide

- More than one-third of all Michigan seniors have lost six or more natural teeth due to tooth decay or gum disease.
- Approximately 50% of children covered by Medicaid and Healthy Kids Dental did not receive dental services in 2016
- Half of new mothers in 2014 did not receive a preventive dental visit during their pregnancy

For more information, visit midentalaccess.org or contact Amy Zaagman, MCMCH Executive Director, at info@mcmch.org
Improve access to dental care in Michigan

This common sense, cost-effective legislation will enable dentists to delegate routine procedures to dental therapists working under their supervision and allow dentists to focus their time and skills on more complicated, revenue generating procedures.

Senate Bill 541 will:

**Provide** opportunities for previously underserved populations, many in rural areas, to gain access to routine dental care

**Allow** new providers to perform routine dental care: assessments, simple cavity preparation, restoration, simple extraction

**Require** practice under supervision of a dentist with detailed collaborative practice agreements

**Create** opportunities for dentists to grow their practices and reach more patients

**Establish** opportunities for dental professionals to continue their education, expand their skill set and grow their careers

**Include** direct referrals to supervising dentist; creating an ongoing relationship between patients and dental care providers

**Focus** the new workforce on our greatest access challenges, allowing increased capacity in safety net clinics and dental shortage areas

**Ensure** in all practice settings these new providers treat uninsured and Medicaid-insured patients