Restorative Care is Needed

**HYGIENE and PREVENTION** are the cornerstones of good oral health, but **DECAY** happens over time and many people require filling cavities or pulling primary or badly diseased teeth.

**92% of MICHIGAN’S COUNTIES** contain a federally designated dental shortage area which means the area meets criteria that can include **WAIT LISTS** of at least 6 WEEKS for ROUTINE SERVICES. **ADDING DENTAL THERAPISTS** to the dental care team will help **REDUCE WAIT LISTS**.

**CREATING A DENTAL HOME**

**SB 541** requires a **COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT** between a dental therapist and a dentist, CREATING A TRUE DENTAL HOME for patients needing complex dental care.

**GUARANTEED TO HELP UNDERSERVED**

**SB 541** ensures – with detail in statute – that DTs will be targeted towards underserved communities and populations. DTs will only be able to practice:

- in **SHORTAGE AREAS**; or
- in **SAFETY NET SETTINGS**, i.e. FQHCs; or
- see **50% MEDICAID/UNINSURED** patients

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 or call 517-482-5807.