



# ORAL HEALTH IN MICHIGAN

## SB 541: A New Tool to Provide Access

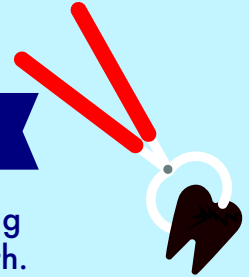
### Restorative Care is Needed

**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.

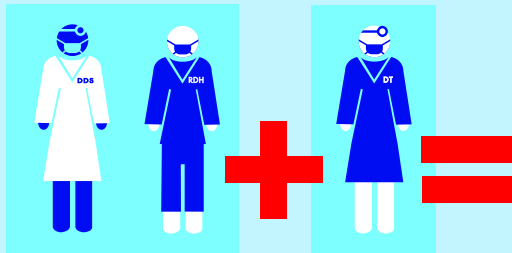


**92% of MICHIGAN'S COUNTIES** contain a federally designated dental shortage area

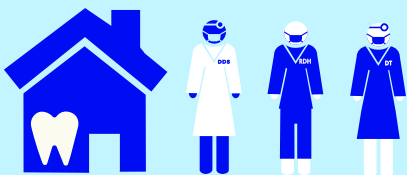


which means the area meets criteria that can include **WAIT LISTS** of at least **6 WEEKS** for **ROUTINE SERVICES**.

**ADDING DENTAL THERAPISTS** to the dental care team will help **REDUCE WAIT LISTS**.



### CREATING A DENTAL HOME



### **SB 541**

**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](mailto:info@midentalaccess.org) or call 517-482-5807.