

**Priority III:  
Adjust Cap on Adult Dental Services  
Reimbursed by Medicaid**

**BACKGROUND/URGENCY:**

In conjunction with the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, and in collaboration with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Key Coalition of Alaska supports the development of a solution that will allow for a critical adjustment of the current cap on adult dental services reimbursed by Medicaid and permit the cost of dentures to be spread over two fiscal years while having the work completed in one fiscal year.

The current cap for dental services is \$1,150 per individual. It covers cleanings, exams, crowns, root canals and dentures and has been at this level for the last three years. In that time, the cost of dental care has risen and this cap is proving inadequate. Because the cap is set in statute, the solution must be addressed by increasing the limit in statute. The recommendation is to raise the cap to \$1,750. In addition, adult dental services only cover the cost of one denture per fiscal year. This causes an obvious problem when an individual requires both an upper and lower denture.

**Benefits:**

- Provides for continued dental health for individuals
- Meets the need created by rising costs for dental services
- Continues to recognize a priority need for Trust Beneficiaries which is considered an unmet need.
- Saves money in the long run by preventative care and the avoidance of significantly costly emergency services.
- Increases opportunities for employment.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

**The Key Coalition of Alaska asks the Alaska State Legislature to:**

*Support legislative solutions that will allow for the adjustment of the current cap to \$1,750 on adult dental services and for creating a process to allow for upper and lower dentures to be completed at one time with the cost spread over two years.*