



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

William A. Hazel, Jr., MD
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

September 9, 2010

To All Virginia Dentists:

When Smiles For Children began five years ago, dental access and utilization for children in Virginia Medicaid and FAMIS was extremely low. The Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Dental Association and the Old Dominion Dental Society worked together to make improvements to the child dental program. As a result, *Smiles For Children* (SFC) was developed to improve the delivery of dental care.

Now, there is much to be proud of about *Smiles For Children*. Since the program began, the number of participating providers has increased by more than 100% and the number of children receiving care has increased by 99%. Unfortunately, thousands of kids still need your help.

For those of you who do not participate in *Smiles For Children*, I ask that you consider becoming a participating provider in the program. *Smiles For Children* continues to receive national attention as a positive example of the good which can be achieved when the provider community and the Commonwealth work together toward a common goal. Provider satisfaction rates are high with 98% of all participating providers responding that they are satisfied with the program. Other states model the restructuring of their own Medicaid dental programs based on the accomplishments of *Smiles For Children*. The program continues to be administered by DentaQuest, LLS with involvement from dentists across Virginia who serve the Department of Medical Assistance Services' (DMAS) Dental Advisory Committee. Please visit the DentaQuest website at www.DentaQuest.com for more information or call DentaQuest at 866-853-0657, and consider joining Smiles For Children to help Virginia's children.

To those who already participate in SFC, thank you. I want to personally express my gratitude to you for providing critical oral health services. Our success in the Commonwealth of Virginia with improving oral health comes from your dedication to helping children in need of dental care. I congratulate you for serving these children and appreciate your continued support of *Smiles For Children*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Hazel, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

William A. Hazel, Jr., M.D.
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

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