

A black and white close-up photograph of a child's mouth. The child's lips are slightly parted, revealing several missing teeth, particularly in the lower front. The skin around the mouth is visible, and the overall tone is somber, emphasizing the lack of a full smile.

If Medicaid could smile....

It's time to fix Wisconsin's dental Medicaid problems.

Oral health is critical to overall good health. Yet, Wisconsin spends less than one percent of its annual Medicaid budget on oral health. Dentists routinely volunteer and want to be part of a solution, but charity is not a health care system.

Successful dental access, especially for children, depends on a strong partnership: the state properly funding dental care, dentists providing comprehensive care for these patients and parents teaching good personal oral health habits.

It's a fact – states that provide market-rate dental Medicaid reimbursements substantially improve low-income patients' access to critical dental care!

Making oral health a state budget priority will improve access to critical dental care for our most vulnerable citizens and help them reduce lost time at work and school, avoid costly emergency room visits and minimize future health complications.

