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*Mary Ellen Mayo, RN, President*  
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September 18, 2007

Sarah Iselin, Commissioner  
Division of Health Care Finance and Policy  
2 Boylston Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Boston, Mass 02116

Dear Commissioner Iselin,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony about the proposed dental reimbursement rates for Mass Health recipients. The Arc of Massachusetts represents 180,000 individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families.

Dental care should be considered an integral part to the overall health of an individual. Earlier this year newspapers reported the death of a 12-year old boy in Maryland (Deamonte Driver) due to untreated dental decay.

Low reimbursement rates make it difficult for dentists to serve Mass Health patients. We hear individual stories of families driving for one hour to locate a dentist. In cases where an adult is involved dental care is ignored totally.

In fact the termination of dental benefits in MassHealth some years ago means that we require outreach to dentists in addition to increases in rates.

Please approve the proposed rate increase and evaluate its effects. Massachusetts needs to establish dental care reimbursement rates to levels that would open access to such care for all Mass Health members.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Mayo  
President

Leo V. Sarkissian  
Executive Director