As a practicing dentist in <insert state>, and a member of <insert managed care provider name> dental network, I write with some urgency. I need support from <insert managed care provider name> to keep my dental practice viable, so I may continue providing patient care in the new COVID-19 environment.

As dentists begin resuming patient care, we are now faced with greatly increased direct and indirect costs, to comply with new infection control requirements. This dramatic increase in expenses will be more than many dentists can absorb for any considerable period of time. While the costs will vary by dental practice, we can reasonably expect an additional $25 to $50 per patient, depending on the procedure. This is combined with the fact that most of us will have to reduce our typical patient volume for the foreseeable future, to comply with new social distancing and infection control requirements to maintain the highest level of safety in our offices. Increased costs and decreased patient volumes create a major sustainability crisis for many dental practices.

Stabilization grants provided by < insert managed care provider name> to its members would be the best way to help practices avoid such a crisis and weather this onslaught of increased costs and reduced revenues. Both dentists and <insert managed care provider name> have a mutual interest in sustaining adequate networks to ensure <insert managed care provider name> enrollees have timely access to oral health care. It is in the best interest of your business, enrollees, dentists, and the dental team members employed in <insert state> to find ways to partner now, to keep provider networks intact and prevent widespread, permanent closures of practices that would devastate the profession and significantly diminish access to care.

Time is of the essence, as dentists will be making difficult decisions in the weeks and months ahead about the future of their practices. After two months of treating emergency patients only or being closed altogether, we are already under great financial pressure.

I am hopeful <insert managed care provider name> can respond accordingly and act quickly to provide relief for its providers through stabilization grants. Thank you for your consideration.

Title, Full Name

Address

Phone #

Email

Dental License Number