



**CANDIDATE NAME: Chad Magendanz**

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**Position Sought: State Representative, LD5 Pos. 1**

**CANDIDATE QUESTIONS**

**1. Background**

A. With which dentist(s) do you currently have a relationship?

**Michelle Caldier, Oleg & Nikole Shvartsur, Barry Feder, Cynthia Pauley, Brian Cave, Albert Goerig, Craig Johnson, John Lo, Robert Merrill, Jeff Parrish, Theresa Cheng, and my father (DDS, retired)**

**2. Medicaid**

<b>Common Dental Visits</b>	<b>Medicaid Reimbursement Rate for Private Practitioners</b>	<b>Community Health Center Reimbursement Range</b>	<b>Tribal Clinic Reimbursement Rate</b>	<b>Average Private Market Reimbursement Rate</b>
Emergent Care Visit (Extraction)	\$55	\$137 - \$344	\$350	\$257
Restorative Care Visit (Dental Filling)	\$48	\$137 - \$344	\$350	\$202
Preventive Care Visit (Cleaning and Exam)	\$63	\$137 - \$344	\$350	\$227

There is as a vast disparity in reimbursement rates among dental Medicaid providers in Washington state. Currently, Medicaid pays dentists in private practice approximately 25 cents on the dollar for providing care to Medicaid-eligible adults, almost the lowest in the nation. Thus, it becomes increasingly difficult for private practitioners to treat Medicaid-eligible adults when reimbursement rates often do not even cover the cost of treatment.



A. With the state's growing economy and Washington as national model for children's oral health, what would be a reasonable increase to the adult dental Medicaid system?

**It should match the median "basic" private market reimbursement rate.**

B. What other ideas do you have to solve the issues plaguing the current state dental Medicaid system?

**Better coverage for preventative care, which will reduce costs in the long run.**

### **3. Midlevel Providers**

A. Do you support the creation of a new dental provider (called a midlevel or dental therapist) with only 1-3 years of training who would be allowed to perform irreversible and invasive surgical procedures, such as extractions and root canals?

**No.**

B. Should a person who cannot afford dental care or who receives state assistance be treated by a less qualified provider?

**No.**

### **4. Insurance Practices**

A. WSDA believes that the best patient outcomes result from a trusting doctor-patient relationship and that insured dental patients should have the same rights as insured medical patients, such as a neutral review of claim denials. Would you support adding dental insurance to the medical insurance requirement that claim appeals be reviewed by an independent review board overseen by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner?

**Yes.**

B. Do you support legislation that would prohibit an insurer from denying payment for a procedure the treating dentist has



determined is medically necessary?

**Yes.**

**5. Communications**

A. Dentists from all over the state and dental students take time away from their patients and their classes to attend Dental Action Day at the Legislature each year because they believe in the importance of talking with their legislators about the issues that matter to their profession. The reception and day on the hill will be held on January 30 and 31, respectively, in 2019. Will you be willing to meet with them when they come to Olympia?

**Of course!**