**[DATE: Due September 6, 2022]**

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure

Administrator

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Attention: CMS-1770-P

7500 Security Boulevard

Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Submitted via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov/document/CMS-2022-0113-1871)

Re: Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Calendar Year 2023 Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment Policies

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

I write to you on behalf of **[NAME OF ORGANIZATION]**. **[NAME OF ORG.]** is submitting the following comments on the proposed 2023 Medicare physician fee schedule released on July 29, 2022.

**[BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION’S BACKGROUND/CONSTITUENCY AND INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE]**

**[NAME OF ORG.]** would like to express strong support for the expansion of Medicare coverage for medically necessary dental services outlined in the proposed rule. Currently Medicare coverage for oral health needs for individuals with serious medical conditions is very limited. Medicare typically will not cover care to address dental problems that are caused by a medical condition or treatment, or that could jeopardize their medical condition or treatment. Often dental care is cost prohibitive without Medicare coverage, leading many beneficiaries to forgo dental care and thereby jeopardize their other medical treatments. This can have catastrophic consequences for beneficiaries in terms of their treatment, quality of life and overall health outcomes.

We applaud CMS for recognizing that medically necessary dental care can be necessary in order to properly treat other diagnosed medical conditions, such as certain cancer treatments, organ transplants, managing diabetes, as well as many other critical treatments for other medical conditions.

We are committed to health equity in health care. We know that the lack of coverage for medically necessary dental care most impacts underserved populations and communities of color, exacerbating underlying disparities. We would like to emphasize that this CMS proposal to expand Medicare coverage for medically necessary dental services would improve access, improve outcomes and mitigate these health disparities.

**[NAME]** thanks CMS for this opportunity to provide comments on the proposed rule involving changes to payment policy under the 2023 Medicare physician fee schedule. We write to express strong support for inclusion of medically necessary dental care in the proposed rule and urge CMS to finalize the rule with this critical component included. If your staff have any questions, you are welcome to contact our organizationat **[CONTACT NAME/INFO]**.