



Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update February 2018

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Upcoming VaOHC Meetings

[View our online Event Calendar](#)

March 22 | Petersburg
Community Conversation:
Oral Health Care Access for
Individuals with Special
Health Care Needs
[REGISTER](#)

March 23-24 | Petersburg
Practical Guide to Treating
Dental Patients with Special
Health Care Needs
[REGISTER](#)

April 12 | Oakton
NOVA Oral Health Alliance
[RSVP](#)

April 12 | Roanoke
Community Conversation:
Oral Health Care Access for
Individuals with Special
Health Care Needs
[REGISTER](#)

Legislative Update: Medicaid Expansion and Budget Reconciliation

Earlier this month, Virginia's House and Senate [released their budgets](#) with vastly different views on Medicaid expansion.

The **House's budget** expands Medicaid to 300,000 Virginians through a two-pronged approach: 1) an amendment to expand income eligibility and use federal funds; and, 2) a federal waiver to add limited work requirements and other reforms to the current Medicaid system. The House budget proposes a mix of federal expansion dollars and assessments (tax) on hospitals to pay for expansion and fund raises for state workers and education and economic development initiatives.

The **Senate budget** does not include Medicaid expansion (or any federal expansion money) but does have a plan to broaden an existing Medicaid program for low-income individuals with severe mental illness or substance abuse disorders. This plan does not qualify as Medicaid expansion because it carves out a subset of the population, which means Virginia would pay 50% of the cost versus 10% in a Medicaid expansion scenario.

What does this mean?

At this point, the House and Senate budgets (and philosophies) are far apart. Check out The Commonwealth Institute's [side-by-side comparison of the two budgets](#) for more details.

Up next, select members of the House and Senate

**April 13-14 | Roanoke
Practical Guide to Treating
Dental Patients with Special
Health Care Needs**
[REGISTER](#)

**May 3 | Abingdon
Appalachian Oral Health
Symposium**
Save the Date

**November 8 | Richmond
2018 Virginia Oral Health
Summit**
Save the Date

Check out our
[event calendar](#) to view
meeting times and exact
locations for all dates listed
above.

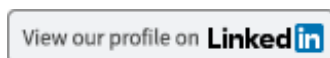
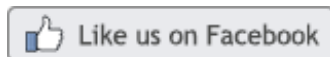
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Please take a moment and
support the Coalition's work.



Please check with your HR
department to find out if your gift
can be matched.

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(or "conferees") will meet in conference committee to reconcile the two budgets. The House named their conferees, all of whom show support for Medicaid expansion as outlined in the House budget. The Senate has not yet named their conferees (as of Feb. 28).

What can you do?

Make your voice heard! **Let the House conferees know you support Medicaid expansion** and appreciate their bipartisan budget proposal.

House Conferees:

- [Delegate Chris Jones](#)
- [Delegate Chris Peace](#)
- [Delegate Barry Knight](#)
- [Delegate Scott Garrett](#)
- [Delegate Luke Torian](#)
- [Delegate Mark Sickles](#)

Similarly, **let [Senators](#) know how important expansion is** to your community, patients, and clients.

Join the rally on March 1

Healthcare for All Virginians is also hosting a **rally in Richmond tomorrow, March 1 at 11:30 a.m.** - [sign up](#).

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Of Interest

Oral Health and Overall Health

Oral health and overall health are fundamentally intertwined. The following links present current information on how oral health and other social factors impact overall health and well-being.

- [How Dental Inequality Hurts Americans](#) (NY Times)
 - [Our Dental Care System is Stuck: And Here's What To Do About It](#) (JADA)
 - [The Inability to Bridge the Gap in Oral Health and Health Care through the Affordable Care Act \(ACA\)](#) (Journal of Applied Sciences and Arts)
 - [Report: Getting Ahead: The Uneven Opportunity Landscape in Northern Virginia](#) (Northern Virginia Health Foundation)
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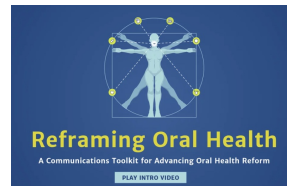
Fluoride Varnish Training Resources

Non-dental providers can help ensure children have great oral health from the start. Below are resources about fluoride varnish application for pediatric and primary care providers from DentaQuest, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, and VaOHC:

- [Pediatricians Can Help Prevent Cavities with Fluoride Varnish](#)
- [Fluoride Varnish Billing Instructions](#)
- [Fluoride Varnish Suppliers](#)
- [Video: Fluoride Varnish Application](#)

Toolkit: Reframing Oral Health

Frameworks Institute, in partnership with DentaQuest Foundation, created "**Reframing Oral Health**" as a communications toolkit



for advancing oral health reform. The toolkit includes framing recommendations, communications tools, and deeper research and learning opportunities. [Explore the website and introductory video.](#)

Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual

The **Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual (2nd ed.)** is designed to help safety net clinic staff, including clinical, administrative, and others, with all aspects of clinic development and ongoing operations. The manual, developed by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, includes six units that can be used in succession or independently. [View the Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual.](#)



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