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## WPHCA Praise for Governor's Dental Access Initiative

Madison, WI – The Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association (WPHCA) is appreciative of Governor Evers' Dental Access Initiative. Wisconsinites do not enjoy equitable access to oral health care, and we are grateful for Governor Evers' attention toward low-income and underserved communities.

"As an organization that advocates for all communities to reach their highest health potential, we are pleased to see this package which recognizes the disparities in oral health access in our State," said Stephanie Harrison, CEO of WPHCA. WPHCA is the member association for Wisconsin's 17 Community Health Centers which provide oral health, primary care, and behavioral health services to over 300,000 Wisconsinites each year.

"Governor Evers' initiative will address access issues from a variety of angles, and Community Health Centers stand ready to work with the Governor on these measures," said Harrison.

Community Health Centers have been growing their oral health practices for over a decade, recognizing that there are still gaps in care across the state. They saw three times more dental patients in 2017 (161,383) than in 2007 (44,644). Learn more about how Community Health Centers are <u>breaking down barriers to oral health care in Wisconsin</u>.

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