



CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ  
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

MAY 06 1998

Refer to  
Legislative Secretary

The Honorable Antonio R. Unpingco  
Speaker  
Mina'Bente Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan  
Twenty-Fourth Guam Legislature  
Guam Legislature Temporary Building  
155 Hesler Street  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910


OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY	
ACKNOWLEDGMENT RECEIPT	
Received By	<i>Jimi Guzmán</i>
Time	<i>2:15 p.m.</i>
Date	<i>5-7-98</i>

Dear Speaker Unpingco:

Enclosed please find Bill No. 591 (COR), "AN ACT TO AMEND §2303(a) OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 2, DIVISION 1, PART 1 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIZED IN-HOUSE DENTAL CARE FOR ECONOMICALLY INDIGENT CHILDREN THROUGH THE AGE OF SIXTEEN (16).", which I have signed into law today as **Public Law No. 24-196**.

This legislation corrects prior legislation in Public Law No. 24-67 relative to the dental services provided to children by the Department of Public Health and Social Services. The Department desires to limit curative or clinical care to those children who cannot afford dental care from private dentists on island, but also wishes to promote community preventative services to all the children of Guam through programs in the schools and through providing such services as oral health education, oral exam, and if needed, sealant placements.

Very truly yours,

  
Carl T. C. Gutierrez  
I Maga'lahaen Guåhan  
Governor of Guam

00803

Attachment: copy attached for signed bill  
original attached for vetoed bill

cc: The Honorable Joanne M. S. Brown  
Legislative Secretary

Office of the Speaker  
ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO  
Date: *5/7/98*  
Time: *10:45 am*  
Rec'd by: *[Signature]*  
Print Name: *Jimi Guzmán*


MINA'BENTE KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN  
1998 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUAHAN


This is to certify that Bill No. 591 (COR), "AN ACT TO AMEND §2303(a) OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 2, DIVISION 1, PART 1 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIZED IN-HOUSE DENTAL CARE FOR ECONOMICALLY INDIGENT CHILDREN THROUGH THE AGE OF SIXTEEN (16)," was on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1998, duly and regularly passed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO  
Speaker

Attested:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOANNE M.S. BROWN  
Senator and Legislative Secretary

-----  
This Act was received by *I Maga'lahaen Guahan* this 1st day of May, 1998,  
at 12:05 o'clock P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Staff Officer  
Governor's Office

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ  
*I Maga'lahaen Guahan*

Date: 5-6-98

Public Law No. 24-196

**MINA'BENTE KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN**  
**1998 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 591 (COR)**

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Felix P. Camacho  
E. J. Cruz  
J. C. Salas  
T. C. Ada  
F. B. Aguon, Jr.  
A. C. Blaz  
J. M.S. Brown  
Francisco P. Camacho  
M. C. Charfauros  
W. B.S.M. Flores  
Mark Forbes  
L. F. Kasperbauer  
A. C. Lamorena, V  
C. A. Leon Guerrero  
L. Leon Guerrero  
V. C. Pangelinan  
A. L.G. Santos  
F. E. Santos  
A. R. Unpingco  
J. Won Pat-Borja

**AN ACT TO AMEND §2303(a) OF ARTICLE 3,  
CHAPTER 2, DIVISION 1, PART 1 OF TITLE 10 OF  
THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO  
REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE  
SUBSIDIZED IN-HOUSE DENTAL CARE FOR  
ECONOMICALLY INDIGENT CHILDREN  
THROUGH THE AGE OF SIXTEEN (16).**

1           **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2           **Section 1.**   Section 2303(a) of Article 3, Chapter 2, Division 1, Part 1 of  
3 Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated, as repealed and reenacted by P.L. No.  
4 24-67, is amended to read as follows:

5                   **“Section 2303.   Subsidized Dental Care.   (a)   The**  
6           Department of Public Health and Social Services shall provide  
7           subsidized in-house dental care to all pre-school and school age children  
8           in Guam through age sixteen (16) who demonstrate an economic need  
9           and qualify in a manner determined by the Director. The requirement  
10          for demonstration of economic need is hereby waived for those children  
11          participating in community preventive dental services under the school  
12          busing, public health dental program. Community preventive dental  
13          services as it applies to the school busing, public health dental program  
14          include oral health education, an oral exam, and if needed, sealant  
15          placements.”

PL 24 196

**Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature**

155 Hesler Street  
Agana, Guam 96910  
Tel: (671) 472-3581 • Fax: (671) 472-3582

April 20, 1997

Honorable Antonio R. Unpingco  
Speaker  
Twenty Fourth Guam Legislature  
155 Hesler Street  
Agana, Guam 96910

VIA: Chairperson, Committee on Rules, Government Reform and Federal Affairs

Dear Mr. Speaker:

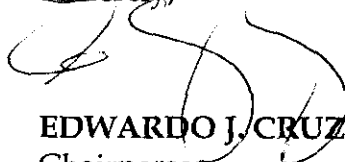
The Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred Bill No. 591, "AN ACT TO AMEND PARAGRAPH (a) OF §2303 OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIZED IN-HOUSE DENTAL CARE FOR ECONOMICALLY INDIGENT CHILDREN THROUGH THE AGE OF SIXTEEN (16).," has had the same under consideration and now wishes to report back the same with the recommendation to do pass as substituted.

The Committee votes are as follows:

- To Do Pass
- Not to Pass
- Abstain
- Inactive File

A copy of the Committee Report and other pertinent documents are attached for your immediate reference and information.

Sincerely,



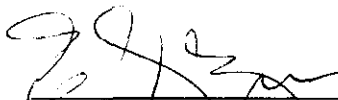
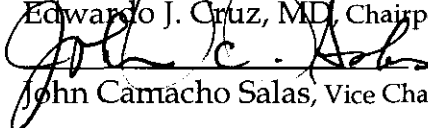
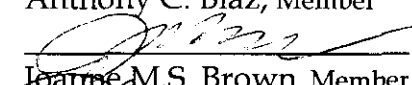
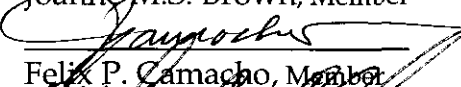
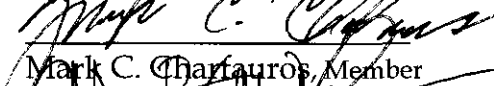
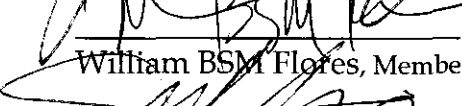
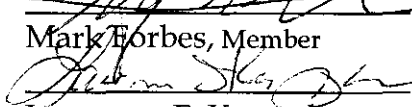

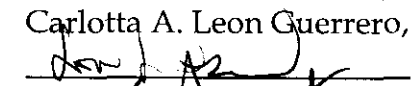
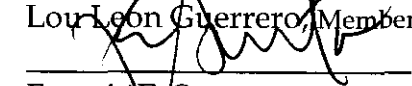
**EDUARDO J. CRUZ, MD**  
Chairperson.

Enclosure:

Committee Health and Human Services  
Vote Sheet on  
Bill No. 591

AN ACT TO AMEND PARAGRAPH (a) OF §2303 OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIZED IN-HOUSE DENTAL CARE FOR ECONOMICALLY INDIGENT CHILDREN THROUGH THE AGE OF SIXTEEN (16).

COMMITTEE MEMBER	TO PASS	NOT TO PASS	ABSTAIN	INACTIVE FILE
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 Edwardo J. Cruz, MD, Chairperson	✓			
 John Camacho Salas, Vice Chairperson	✓			
Antonio R. Unpingco, Speaker & Ex-Officio				
Anthony C. Blaz, Member				
 Joanne M.S. Brown, Member	✓			
 Felix P. Camacho, Member	✓			
 Mark C. Charfauros, Member	✓			
 William BSM Flores, Member	✓			
Mark Forbes, Member				
 Lawrence F. Kasperbauer, Member	✓			
Alberto A.C. Lamorena, V, Member				
 Carlotta A. Leon Guerrero, Member	✓			
 Lou Leon Guerrero, Member	✓			
 Francis E. Santos, Member	✓			

Committee on Health and Human Services  
Report On  
Bill No. 591 (COR)

AN ACT TO AMEND PARAGRAPH (A) OF §2303 OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIZED IN-HOUSE DENTAL CARE FOR ECONOMICALLY INDIGENT CHILDREN THROUGH THE AGE OF SIXTEEN (16).

Introduced by Senators  
Felix P. Camacho, Eduardo J. Cruz, and John C. Salas

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred Bill No. 591 (COR), "AN ACT TO AMEND PARAGRAPH (A) OF §2303 OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIZED IN-HOUSE DENTAL CARE FOR ECONOMICALLY INDIGENT CHILDREN THROUGH THE AGE OF SIXTEEN (16)," conducted a public hearing on Monday, April 6, 1998, starting 8:30 a. m., at the Legislative Public Hearing Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Eduardo J. Cruz, M. D., Chairperson of the Committee on Health and Human Services convened the hearing promptly at 8:30 a. m. Committee members and other Senators present were : John C. Salas, Vice-Chairperson, William B.S.M. Flores, Lou Leon Guerrero, Carlotta A. Leon Guerrero, Frank B. Aguon, Jr. and Sen. Francisco P. Camacho.

TESTIMONY:

Written testimony received was submitted to the Committee from Ms. Angelina Mummert, and Mr. PeterJohn Camacho both representing the Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services. Both Ms. Mummert and Mr. Camacho testified in support of Bill No. 591. There being no further witnesses, the Chairperson adjourned the Committee's hearing on Bill No. 591.

FINDINGS:

The Committee finds that:

1. Similar legislation (Bill No. 21) submitted to the Legislature for introduction on January 10, 1997. It was ratified by the Committee on Rules and officially

ratified during the first Legislative session. The Committee on Committee on Health and Human Services conducted a public hearing on Tuesday, February 25, 1997 and by unanimous vote was passed by the Legislature on September 12, 1997. It was subsequently signed into law by the Governor on September 30, 1997

2. The legislation reasserts the intent of the Department's objective on the subject of providing free dental care to children of our island.
3. The legislation directs the limited resources of the Department of Public Health and Social Services to offering direct dental service to children who otherwise would not have ready access to dental care.
4. Bill No. 591 (COR), as amended, ensures that an essential preventive dental services be provided to the children of Guam. The DPHSS finds that the requirement for and demonstration of an economic means test be waived for participating children. The envisioned health care benefits for the intended beneficiaries outweigh the additional costs involved.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee, having reviewed the testimonies presented at the public hearing, does hereby recommend to the Legislature the following: that Bill No. 591 (COR), "AN ACT TO AMEND PARAGRAPH (A) OF §2303 OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIZED IN-HOUSE DENTAL CARE FOR ECONOMICALLY INDIGENT CHILDREN THROUGH THE AGE OF SIXTEEN (16)," be passed.



## Profile on Bill No. 591 (COR)

Brief Title: "Subsidized in-house Dental Care."

Date Introduced: March 9, 1998.

Main Sponsors: Senator Felix P. Camacho, Sen. E. J. Cruz, and Sen. J. C. Salas

Committee Referral: To the Committee on Health on Human Services

Public Hearing: The Committee on Health and Human Services conducted a public hearing on Bill No. 591 on Monday, April 6, 1998, starting 8:30 a. m., at the Legislative Public Hearing Room.

Official Title: AN ACT TO AMEND PARAGRAPH (A) OF §2303 OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIZED IN-HOUSE DENTAL CARE FOR ECONOMICALLY INDIGENT CHILDREN THROUGH THE AGE OF SIXTEEN (16).

Recommendation: To pass.

### OVERVIEW AND INTENT:

This is a simple bill which allows the DPHSS to provide subsidized in-house dental care to all pre-school and school age children in Guam, through age sixteen(16), who demonstrate an economic need and qualify in a manner determined by the Director.

### SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1. This section proposes to further amend paragraph (a) of Section 2303 of Article 3, Chapter 2 of Title 10 GCA, as repealed and reenacted by P. L. No. 24-67, to read:

"Section 2303. Subsidized Dental Care. (a) The DPHSS shall provide subsidized in-house dental care to all pre-school and school age children in Guam through age sixteen (16) who demonstrate an economic need and qualify in a manner determined by the Director. The requirement for demonstration of economic need is hereby waived for those children participating in community preventive dental services under the school busing public health dental program. Community preventive dental services as it applies to the school busing public health dental program include oral health education, an oral exam, and if needed, sealant placements."

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM



Carl T.C. Gutierrez  
GOVERNOR

Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
(DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT)

Post Office Box 2816 Agana, Guam 96932  
123 Chalan Kareta, Route 10  
Mangilao, Guam 96923

APR - 6 1998



Dennis G. Rodriguez  
DIRECTOR

Marilyn D.A. Manibusan  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony on Bill 591 (COR): "An Act to Amend Paragraph (a) of Subsection 2303 of Article 3, Chapter 2 of Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated, Relative to Requiring the Department of Public Health and Social Services to Provide Subsidized In-House Dental Care for Economically Indigent Children Through the Age of Sixteen (16)."

Dear Mr. Chairperson and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, the following is testimony on Bill 591 (COR):

The Department supports Bill 591 (COR) which will amend Public Law 24-67 which provides "subsidized in-house dental care to all preschool age children in Guam through age sixteen who demonstrate an economic need and qualify in a manner determined by the Director". The title of the law references that these dental services are for economically indigent children under the age of sixteen (16) while the actual section of the law states that these services be provided for children through age sixteen (16). This bill will rectify the discrepancy so that the age cut off point for public health dental services, children through age sixteen (16), is clarified.

The Dental section provides two distinct types of services: (a) community preventive services such as dental sealants and oral health education through the schools and (b) curative/clinical care for individual patients. Public Law 24-67, as passed by the Legislature, provides the Department with the express legal mandate to promulgate rules and regulations covering not only the "scope of basic dental care" that can be provided to preschool and school age children but it also validates the current dental policy of providing the "curative/clinical care" portion of Public Health's dental program services to only those children who meet an "economic means test" and qualify in a manner determined by the Director of Public Health and Social Services. This is in accord with our current policy and is necessary.

Our main concern is that the wording of the public law precludes us from providing the second critical type of dental services, i.e., "community preventive services" (dental sealants/health education) to preschool and school children unless they meet the means test. We do not and have not supported limiting the "community preventive services" which is the cornerstone of our primary public health mission, which is to improve the oral health of Guam's children. The school sealant and education programs have been very successful community preventive measures that are provided to all children regardless of their economic status. The success of these types of community programs depends on reaching the vast majority of children. We do however continue to support the application of an economic test but only as it relates to curative/clinical care in order to insure that



those in greatest need have access to these services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Sincerely,



DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ

8: Zam

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM



Carl T.C. Gutierrez  
GOVERNOR

Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
(DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT)

Post Office Box 2816 Agana, Guam 96932  
123 Chalan Kareta, Route 10  
Mangilao, Guam 96923



Dennis G. Rodriguez  
DIRECTOR

Marilyn D.A. Manibusan  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MAR 03 1998

03-151

RECEIVED

24TH GUAM LEGISLATURE  
COM. HEALTH & HUMAN SVCS.  
DATE: 3-4-98 By: at 11:50 a.m.

Honorable Edwardo J. Cruz, M.D.  
Chairperson, Committee on Health and Welfare  
Twenty-Fourth Guam Legislature  
155 Hessler Street  
Agana, Guam 96910

Ref: Request for Amendment of Public Law 24-67  
Related to Public Health Dental Services For Children

Dear Senator Dr. Cruz:

*Buenas yan saluda!* Recently, Public Law 24-67 (enclosed), was passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor. The law calls for providing "subsidized in-house dental care to all pre-school age children in Guam through age sixteen (16) who demonstrate an economic need and qualify in a manner determined by the Director." However, the title of the law references that these dental services are for economically indigent children **under** the age of sixteen (16), while the actual section of the law states that these services be provided for children "**through**" age 16. We request that the public law be amended to rectify the discrepancy so that the age cut off point for public health dental services, children through age 16 (i.e., those below age 17) is clarified. An advance copy of the suggested changes has been transmitted to your staff (Ms. Rose Ligon) for possible consideration. A copy is also enclosed for your information.

The Dental Section provides two distinct types of services: a) community preventive services such as dental sealants and oral health education through the schools; and b) curative/clinical care for individual patients. Public Law No.24-67, as passed by the Legislature, provides the Department with the express legal mandate to promulgate rules and regulations covering not only the "scope of basic dental care" that can be provided to preschool and school aged children, but it also validates the current dental policy of providing the "curative/clinical care" portion of public health's dental program services to only those children who meet an "economic means test" and qualify in a manner determined by the Director of Public Health and Social Services. This is in consonance with our current policy and is needed.

Our main concern is that the current wording of the public law precludes us from providing the second critical type of dental services, i.e., "community preventive services" (dental sealants/health education) to preschool and school children unless they meet the means test. We do not and have not supported limiting the "community preventive services" which is the cornerstone of our primary public health mission -- to improve the oral health of Guam's children. We do however continue to support the application of an economic means test **but only as it relates to curative/clinical care** in order to insure

Of file  
cc: ETC, RB,  
RL



that those in greatest need have access to these services. We pointed this out in written testimony provided in 1995, and again on March 7, 1997. (Refer to enclosure.)

With your support we propose that the public law be amended to 1) restrict the means test to the curative dental services only, and 2) the title be changed to reflect the correct cut off age. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact either PeterJohn Camacho, Chief Public Health Officer at 735-7305, or myself at 735-7102. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

*Dangkulo na agradecimiento!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis G. Rodriguez', with a stylized, wavy flourish extending to the right.

DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ  
Director

Enclosures

Public Law No. 24-67

Section 2303 of Article 3, Chapter 2 of Title 10 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby repealed and re-enacted to read:

Section 2303. Subsidized Dental Care. (a) The Department of Public Health and Social Services shall provide subsidized in-house dental care to all pre-school **[and school]** age children in Guam through age sixteen (16) who demonstrate an economic need and qualify in a manner determined by the Director. **[The requirement for demonstration of economic need is hereby waived for those children participating in community preventive dental services under the school busing public health dental program. Community preventive dental services as it applies to the school busing public health dental program includes oral health education, an oral exam, and if needed, sealant placements.]**

(b) The Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services shall promulgate rules and regulations through the Administrative Adjudication Law within **[180]** days upon enactment.

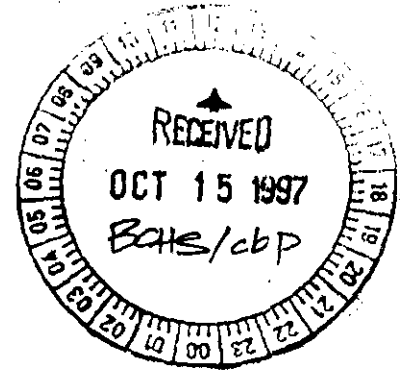
NOTE: The section in brackets [ ] and **bold lettering** are the suggested insertions/changes to the Public Law.

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	10/15	# of Pages	5
To	American	From	Chulans		
Co./Dept	BHS	Co.			
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #	477-1026	Fax #			



Attachment A

**CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ**  
GOVERNOR OF GUAM



SEP 30 1997

The Honorable Antonio R. Unpingco  
Speaker  
Twenty-Fourth Guam Legislature  
Guam Legislature Temporary Building  
155 Hessler Street  
Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Speaker Unpingco:

Enclosed please find a copy of Substitute Bill No. 21 (COR), "AN ACT TO REPEAL AND REENACT §2303 OF ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER 2 OF TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES' DIRECTOR TO PROVIDE SUBSIDIZED IN-HOUSE DENTAL CARE FOR ECONOMICALLY INDIGENT CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIXTEEN (16).", which I have signed into law today as Public Law No. 24-67.

This legislation reasserts the intent of the original law on the subject of providing free dental care to children of our island. The intent of the original law was to provide free basic dental care to our children in order to halt the spread of dental problems faced by Guam when dental services were few and not readily available. In more recent years, Guam has experienced a growth in the dental profession, and there are a number of dentists available to offer services. At the same time, there are new, complicated, and costly dental services available for those who can afford them.

This legislation directs the limited resources of the Department of Public Health to offering direct dental service to children who otherwise would not have ready access to dental care, and concentrates the free dental service to basic care to eliminate diseases and other conditions. At the same time, it preserves the role of public health in providing information to the general public in the prevention of dental diseases and conditions.

Very truly yours,

Carl T. C. Gutierrez  
Governor of Guam

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Joanne M. S. Brown  
Legislative Secretary



Office of the Speaker  
**ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO**

Date: 10/15/97  
Time: 1:00  
Rec'd by: [Signature]  
Print Name: [Signature]

## Testimony of Bill No. 390

An Act to Repeal and Re-enact Section 2303, Article 3, Chapter 2, Title 10 Gca, to Establish Residency and Economic Requirements for Free Dental Care for Children under the Age of Sixteen (16).

Good morning Madame Chairperson and Members of the Committee on Health Welfare and Senior Citizens. My Name is Dennis Rodriguez, the Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services. I am here this morning to present testimony in favor of Bill number 390.

Under current Guam law all children through age sixteen are eligible for free dental care through the Department of Public Health and Social Services despite family income or possession of dental insurance. Today there is a great demand for dental services at the public health clinics, consequently many patients are unable to get appointments. Under these circumstances we should strive to serve that segment of our population who have no~~x~~ other means of getting care, i.e., low income and uninsured.

Additionally, the current law is very broad and could be interpreted to encompass a wide range of dental services, many of which the Department of Public health and Social Services Dental Section is not capable of providing and which are not congruent with its mission.

The current law was passed at a time when access to private sector dental care was nearly nonexistent. This situation has changed and there are now over 50 private dental practitioners on Guam and dental insurance benefits are widely available.

Bill 390 would insure that certain preventive services would remain available to benefit all children while giving the Department of Public Health and Social Services the ability to direct the appropriate clinical/curative care to the most needy.

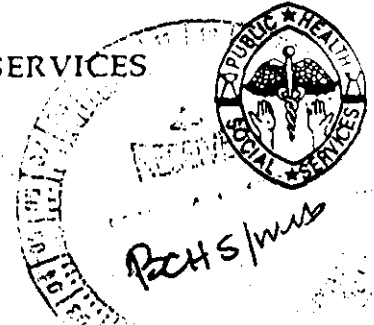
Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.





DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
GOVERNMENT OF GUAM  
P.O. BOX 2816  
AGANA, GUAM 96910

MAR 07 1997



Testimony on Bill No. 21: "An Act to Repeal and Re-enact Section 2303, Article 3, Chapter 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated to Require the Department of Public Health and Social Services Director to Provide Free Dental Care For Economically Indigent Children Under the Age of Sixteen"

Dear Mr. Chairperson and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, the following is testimony on Bill 21:

The Department supports Bill 21 which it believes will enable our Dental Section to focus its limited resources on those children who do not have any other means of accessing dental care. In addition, by allowing the Department to determine the scope of services it will provide, we will better focus our efforts towards those services which have the greatest impact for the community.

The Dental Section provides two distinct types of services. It provides community preventive services such as dental sealants/health education through the schools, and it provides clinical care for individual patients. The school sealant and education programs have been very successful community preventive measures that are provided to all children regardless of their economic status. The success of these types of community programs depends on reaching the vast majority of children. We are concerned that the wording of this bill would force clients participating in these community type programs to pass a needs test. Therefore, we would like to recommend for your consideration and incorporation into the bill language that would exempt clients from proving economic need while they participate in community preventive programs like the school dental sealant/education program.

Further, the Department would like to omit the word "free" from the language of the bill in order to give the Department the option of creating a sliding fee scale for billing federal sources for dental services at some future date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Sincerely,

  
DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ

