

## Margo Miller

---

**From:** Dr. Brooke Fukuoka <yourspecialsmiles@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 7, 2020 8:23 AM  
**To:** Senator Fred S. Martin; Senator Mary Souza; Senator Lee Heider; Senator Abby Lee; Senator Mark Harris; Senator Van Burtenshaw; Senator Regina Bayer; Senator Maryanne Jordan; Senator David Nelson  
**Subject:** S1295

Respective Senators of the Health and Welfare Committee:

I am writing you to urge you to vote yest on S1295. I am the dentist leader in one of two programs that have received federal funding to implement teledentistry as a way to expand access to care in Idaho. I am currently beginning to practice teledentistry in Idaho. I have learned a lot in this process. There are many advantages to a teledental system, however there is also abuse potential.

What this bill will do: This will make sure that Idaho citizens who receive teledental services will have a way to get needed treatment, if treatment is needed. It mandates that the dentist providing the teledental services either provides the treatment or that they have an established referral system where the patients are aware of the terms prior to utilizing the patient's single exam per year insurance benefits.

An example of teledentistry gone wrong without this bill:

Idaho Medicaid patient receives teledental exam, finds out they have a cavity that needs repair, the dentist who did the teledental exam lives in Nebraska. This patient can't go to Nebraska for care. They then go to another dentist in Idaho who accepts Medicaid, however only one exam per year is allowed with Medicaid so they will have to pay for this new exam. They can't afford this exam so they just go on knowing they have a cavity. Idaho Medicaid paid the Nebraska dentist, yet this was not a benefit for the patient, nor was it a good use of our limited Medicaid funds. The only 'winner' in this situation is the Nebraska dentist who was paid for the exam.

The same scenario if this bill were passed: (two possible outcomes) :

1. The patient knows in advance that they will have to pay for a subsequent exam because the dentist in Nebraska does not have someone who has agreed to perform the treatment for the patient on a referral basis. The patient decides to go to another dentist where they can have treatment if needed.
2. The dentist in Nebraska has established a referral system with a dentist the patient can see without charging a second exam. The Nebraska dentist refers the patient to the Idaho dentist and the treatment is done. The Idaho dentist doesn't charge an exam as that was the agreement they had previously worked out.
3. The patient knew that they may have to pay for an exam with an Idaho dentist if treatment was needed. Before their teledental exam, they knew who the Idaho dentist is and they called to see how much the exam would cost if needed. They agree to take on the risk of needing to pay for the exam and are prepared for that. The Nebraska teledental dentist tells them they have a cavity, they were prepared they pay the Idaho dentist for the exam, they pay for the exam then go have their needed treatment.

I am happy to discuss this further with you if you would like. Email is the best way to get a hold of me until Tuesday as I am currently in Chicago for a meeting. My cell is 208-859-8449, texting is the best way to get a hold of me ordinarily.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Brooke MO Fukuoka

Your Special Smiles PLLC  
Dr. Brooke MO Fukuoka DMD -Owner Dentist

(208) 859-8449

*"Our mission is to increase the quality of life for adults with special needs and geriatric patients with mobility issues through caregiver education and increasing access to comprehensive dental care."*