**Sample Letter - Request to include Domain 4 in 1115 Waiver Extension Request**

**Submit Letters to 1115waiver@dhcs.ca.gov by 5:00 PM, August 21**

ORGANIZATION LETTERHEAD

DATE

William Lightbourne

Director

California Department of Health Care Services

1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4000, P.O. Box 997413

Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Dear Mr. Lightbourne,

On behalf of ORGANIZATION NAME, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Medi-Cal 2020 Section 1115 Waiver extension proposal. We strongly encourage the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to include Domain 4 of the Dental Transformation Initiative (DTI) in the one-year extension request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

As COVID-19 continues to put the health of our state in crisis, we must ensure that we do not lose the progress that has been made under the DTI, including Domain 4. Under Domain 4, the thirteen Local Dental Pilot Projects (LDPPs) are providing much needed services within their communities, including oral health education, dental care coordination, increasing the provider network, establishing dental homes in community-based settings, and providing resources for Medi-Cal-enrolled children and their families. Many of these children—who are overwhelmingly children of color and low-income children—are now in crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its disparate impact on low-income families.

During this crisis, the LDPPs have served as trusted resources and a help to those families most in need. While in-person services have been limited during the public health emergency, the LDPPs have worked to find ways to support the overall health and wellbeing of children and families. However, the pilot programs—as well as the state’s third party evaluator—have not had the opportunity to fully test the innovative, alternative models for providing preventive oral health care to children enrolled in Medi-Cal.

INSERT YOUR ORGANIZATION’S LDPP ROLE AND/OR STORIES/RELEVANT TALKING POINTS.

Extending Domain 4 for one year is necessary to see the demonstration to completion, and to truly learn of its impact. As LDPP in-person activities have shifted or halted, the one-year extension would allow for the State to accurately assess the impact of pilot strategies, including identifying, sustaining, and scaling best practices. As of July 2020, DHCS has invested $63 million total in Domain 4, yet without the ability to see the pilots through, we will not be able to fully recognize this investment.

We must ensure that we do not lose the momentum that began through the LDPPs before COVID-19 and, instead, support the critical programs that are serving families right now. With a one-year extension, we can both continue to bring oral health care to children who otherwise may not be able to access services as we work to rebuild from the pandemic as well as fully understand the best practices and lessons learned from these innovative pilots.

For these reasons, we urge DHCS to include Domain 4 of the DTI in the 12-month Medi-Cal 2020 waiver extension request.

Sincerely,

NAME

SIGNATURE